

The Evening Herald

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1920.

PROVISIONS OF THE STORAGE CONTRACT

The Editor of The Herald,
Klamath Falls, Oregon.

I notice in the Record for January 30, 1920, what purports to be an interview given out by one of our "prominent citizens" under the heading "Facts Water Shortage." Our erstwhile prominent citizen bewails the fate of the people of Klamath county if the California Oregon Power company is not permitted to complete its program for the assimilation of this county. He states that if the dam is not completed by the California Power company we may have no water next year and the cost per acre to Tule lake and lower lake lands would be increased \$4 per acre.

Those opposed to the leases on upper Klamath lake do not desire to harm anyone, but they do stand for the proposition that the power company should comply with their contract with Secretary Lane of the interior department, dated February 24, 1917. If the company did this it would itself like these lands and there would be no additional cost to anyone but the power company, and

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it would cost it nothing but what it contracted to do. Here is paragraph five of the contract of February 24, 1917:

"5. The lowering and raising of the waters of the lake below or above the normal fluctuations while in a state of nature shall be undertaken by the company only after making satisfactory adjustment at its own expense in regard to all interests which may be affected thereby whether of the state for navigation or other purposes or of any private individuals."

Here is paragraph seven of the contract:

"7. The company assumes any and all liability for damage to the property or rights of any person or corporation or the property or rights of the state of Oregon due to the operation of said dam by said company or to the regulation and control of the levels of said lake by said company and hereby undertakes to

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The Government Took Over

The Possession and Management

of certain QUASI-public concerns, and, with the assistance of a large part of the previously formed organizations, realized some success in operation, but as a total result the experiment was a failure. Every day that passes furnishes evidence to justify this assertion. The property and businesses taken over have been or will be returned to the owners for the real reason, if not admitted, that the undertakings were too big and complicated for new and unexperienced chiefs to manage. What the results of this experiment will be as to the future value of the properties no one can, with accuracy, predict. It cannot be entirely satisfactory to the owners or, for some years at least, to the general public. There was clearly demonstrated during the war the value and practical benefit of private management as compared with public management. If it be said that government (or municipal) conduct of business has sometimes been successful, the answer is that the same business in the hands of private, responsible individuals, with capital and success at stake, would have resulted more favorably.

California-Oregon Power Co.

hold the United States harmless from any and all liability for damage due to such regulation and control."

As stated, those opposing the 30-year leases of the government marsh lands surrounding upper Klamath lake take the position that under paragraphs five and seven of the contract of February 24, 1917, the California Power company is itself bound to do this diking. If it is made to live up to its agreement it will not cost the Tule lake land owners or the land owners in the lower Klamath lake region one cent extra.

Secretary Lane of the interior department, in his argument for the California Power company, likewise fails to remind the public that if he would only do his duty and make

the power company live up to its contract there would be no extra expense imposed upon the public.

There has been a lot of befogging the issues in this matter and it seems to the writer that it is time for the people to get hold of the power company contract and read it themselves. The more they look into this matter, the more convinced will they become that the stranglehold of the company should be now broken. The value of the power privileges this company is getting for a mere pittance would in days to come more than pay the cost of operation and maintenance of the whole Klamath project if the people themselves retained and developed it.

ANOTHER PROMINENT
CITIZEN.



WHY THAT

LAME BACK?

Bird Loosley, dairy business, Box No. 60, Ft. Klamath, says: "I have been subject to backache and kidney disorders for some years past. At times, I have been in pretty bad shape. My back got so lame and stiff that I could hardly straighten up when I got down. Sharp pains example.

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