

The Evening Herald

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1920.

Letters From The People

SAYS POWER COMPANY SHOULD BE CHECKED

Klamath Falls, Oregon, Feb. 20, 1920.

The Editor of the Herald, Dear Sir:

An article appeared in the Herald on the 20th instant, signed by "Citizen," saying that our development and prosperity were about to be retarded unless certain things were done. He mentioned timber, irrigation and agriculture as the three things upon which the future and prosperity of this part of the state hinges.

In reply to "Citizen" might it not be well to remind him that a scheme is now on foot whereby the 80,000 acres of the best land in the world in the Lower Klamath Lake region will be deprived of water. Such is the case or else a lot of misinformation has been given out to our citizens and taxpayers of late by public officials.

It is stated that the water right application of the California-Oregon Power company covering the waters of Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath river, if granted, will absolutely deprive not only the Lower Klamath Lake lands of water for irrigation but that it will also deprive the Klamath Drainage District of water as well.

I believe that we all agree that the future of this place depends as much upon agriculture as upon any other factor. If you, Mr. Citizen, believe that it would be good for Klamath Falls to have this area known as the Lower Lake region irrigated and farmed, every foot of it nearly you will be opposed to seeing the Power company secure all the waters of Upper Klamath Lake and Klamath river not herebefore used, to have it tumble down Klamath river to generate electricity at the Copco dam to be used in San Francisco and other Bay points. The matter rests with you, Mr. Citizen! Would you prefer to see this water tumble down Klamath river than have it applied to the irrigation of the vast area of agricultural lands in and around Lower Klamath Lake?

The California-Oregon Power company is crowding its application for this water right every day. If something is not done immediately, this application will be granted. The

Lower Klamath Lake area will become a dry sagebrush plain fit only for breeding jackrabbits and coyotes. Do not let the agents of the power company place their leather spectacles on you as they have attempted to do in the past. You should think about this matter and think fast.

ANOTHER CITIZEN.

ANENT CITIZEN'S ARTICLE ON FUTURE OF KLAMATH

The incontrovertible facts are as set out by Citizen in his article on the industrial situation and development of this county and city. When he states, as he does, "that we have practically reached the limit of reliable adequacy—taking one year with another—of two of the principal agencies in the further development of our lumbering, agricultural and manufacturing industries," he states an unwelcome truth.

It is truth, however, that needs must be driven home with a vengeance; and I propose to avail myself of the facts so broadly stated by Citizen and assist in bringing home to our people by a further elucidation of those facts the exact truth of the situation.

To begin with, Citizen's reference to the necessity for an intelligent and immediate conservation of "Natures Contribution" is so closely allied to the actual situation outlined by Herbert D. Newell, in his letter read before the Business Men's meeting in January, that a brief reference to a few of the salient features of that letter will assist, materially, in illuminating the point made by "Citizen."

Mr. Newell, conclusively demonstrated that, unless storage is provided for in the Upper Lake, sufficient water will not be available to any appreciable extent or benefit to the project during years of low runoff without further development. He cites a period from July 1 to August 31, 1918, when the total outflow of the upper lake averaged only 724 second feet, saying: that after deducting the West Side power right of 205 second feet there would be sufficient for the irrigation of approximately 36,000 acres, while the area legally entitled to water was slightly less than 49,000 acres. What might be Mr. Newell's forecast for this season with no snow on the Klamath Watersheds, is, of course, a matter of conjecture; but it really does not require an expert to convince the man engaged in Stock raising, Dairying, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Lumbering or the wide-awake man in the commercial life of this city, that the probable outflow of the lake this season is going to furnish nothing

convincing argument in support of Mr. Newell's position; that the Upper Lake must be made a storage reservoir if our basic industry, Agriculture, is going to develop as it is entitled to. Indeed, it would be rank folly for Congress to appropriate money for further extension of the Klamath Project until such storage is made an assured fact.

Mr. Newell further showed that bordering the Klamath Irrigation District there are in excess of 20,000 irrigable acres in various proposed pumping districts. One district of 1,000 acres actually used water during 1919. Another district plans to irrigate during 1920. The organization of other districts is pending. When these districts have perfected contracts with the United States, water will be required for about 70,000 acres, while without Lake regulation there will be sufficient supply for about half that area. That at the present time there are over 12,000 acres of the Tule Lake lands which

can be thrown open to settlement as soon as water for irrigation can be made available; and within two or three years that area will be increased to a total of 25,000 acres; and when that time arrives water will be needed for something like 95,000 acres. That during years of low runoff, unless the regulations of the upper lake have been made effective there will be an inadequate supply for only about 36,000 acres.

I am contenting myself with the foregoing brief reference to facts disclosed by Mr. Newell, as being sufficient within themselves to bring home to our people the absolute necessity of getting solidly behind any intelligent plan of action by the United States Reclamation Service looking to the impounding of the flood waters of the Upper Lake to the extent that will assure an adequate supply for the development of the Agricultural resources of the Klamath Basin. That development must not be subordinated to any collateral interests of unproved and doubtful merit, nor should that development be halted by obstructive tactics offering no alternative reasonable plan for securing the same result.

The big things that make for development, such as is demanded here, require the employment of vast sums of money, available only thru combinations of individuals who are willing to take a "Gamblers chance" on their money or through and by means of large appropriations by Congress. By the former method the public reaps the immediate and future benefit without the expenditure of a dollar or the assuming of a single liability while in the latter the public must begin advancing the freight charges and foot the entire bill at the end.

That the plans of the Interior Department have been halted by obstructive tactics has been definitely announced by Secretary Lane, and that too in the absence of any alternative plan of relief.

Congress, owing to unprecedented expenditures during the war, and unusual demands for current expenses, cannot be relied upon for an adequate appropriation to even start the work of carrying out the plans of the Service for the impounding of the waters of the Upper Lake in the very near future.

Isn't it about time, then, with the facts before us, that we come out to the open—we, all of us—who are so deeply and vitally interested in the development of our Agricultural potentialities, in the development of allied industries, in the development of the commercial life of this city dependent thereon, and voice our approval of, and demand reversal of, the obstructive tactics that have halted the development of this county and city at the psychological moment of its awakening?

So much depends in the immediate future on the inducements this section is able to hold out to the Agriculturalist, the lumberman, the stock man, the Dairyman and the Manufacturer in the way of adequate facilities for operation, that we must not shut our eyes to the facts or relax our efforts to place this section in a position that will enable us to say to those industries, and to the investor investigating the potentialities of this county, we are in a position to assure you that water and power are immediately available for your operations. Then the third agency, increased transportation facilities, will be in sight.

J. W. SIEMENS.

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