

The Evening Herald

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925

THE FINANCING OF THE STRAHORN ROAD

We cannot agree with Mr. Robert E. Strahorn that it is exclusively his business where the finances for the extension of the O. C. & E. come from. He must not forget that the City of Klamath Falls is a \$300,000 partner in his enterprise, and while at times he seems to overlook this fact, yet he clearly emphasizes it when he asks special concessions from the city.

There is a well-defined suspicion that control of the road has passed from his hands to those of the Southern Pacific. If this is correct, the people should know it. First, because there would be some degree of possibility of the city securing a return of its investment in the railroad. Second, because there would be all the more reason for the closest scrutiny of any request for rights of way and other concessions.

The people of Klamath Falls are not antagonistic to the Southern Pacific. On the contrary, they have the warmest feeling of friendship for it, but this feeling of friendship is not great enough for them to cast aside caution and carefully guard the interest of the community insofar as future development is concerned. Everyone knows that if the Southern Pacific could bottle this city up and prevent a competitor entering, it would do so. It is only natural. Any railroad would do the same thing.

The question of who is financing the Strahorn line is one of keen interest, yes, vital interest to the people, for if it is the Southern Pacific, they want to be sure their \$300,000 will come back and they also want to see that the gateway to this city is kept wide open for any railroad that wants to enter.

THE LOWER LAKE GRAB

We wish to call to the attention of Secretary Work, while he is here, the effort that is being made to re-flood the Lower Klamath lake-bed. He has been told by the Reclamation Service, and doubtless shown official reports to the effect, that this land is worthless, because of alkali. That is a deliberate misstatement of fact. Immense crops of grain have been grown on this land and there are thousands upon thousands of acres of this land that is just as good as that around Malin. Thousands of head of stock were pastured on it during the past winter.

Then, why, it may be asked, this effort to re-flood it? The scheme is to furnish another reservoir for the storage of water for the California Oregon Power company. The plan is to turn in to the old lake-bed the first excess water, until the lake is completely filled, then the gates of the Link river dam are closed and the Upper Klamath lake filled to the limit. Then the water from the Lower Klamath lake is drawn off until it is drained, when the waters from the Upper Klamath will be brought into use. It is a perfect system of control for the Power company.

The statement is constantly made that the Lower lake is a great wild game breeding ground, and by this propaganda the Audubon Society and similar organizations have been interested in the flooding. The facts are that ducks and geese do not breed there and never have. Pelican, slugs, cranes and the like use it for a breeding ground, but only a very few ducks and geese use it for nesting.

Approximately fifty thousand acres of the finest land that is to be found in the west lies in this lake bed. It is this land that the California Oregon Power company wants to flood, denying its use to soldier boys and others who want to use it for agricultural purposes. The people of Oregon want this land placed upon the tax rolls; they want to see it dotted with homes; they want to see dairy farms there instead of the flood waters the Power company wants to conserve; they want Secretary Work to raise his hand to prevent this theft of the public domain for the exclusive benefit of a corporation that is seeking to build up its private resources at the expense of the public. There must be no further theft of public land and water by the Power company and we hope that Secretary Work will so inform Reclamation Service officials who are seeking to sell out the people in this Lower lake grab.



Now that a radio available has been reported the grouse will report radio is at last nearing perfection.

Atlantic City will fine drunks according to their breaths, but one pleading bad rum may escape by a hairbreadth.

Two Colorado mountains are moving. One has moved 100 feet. May be a sign of spring restlessness.

But the two mountains moving in Colorado isn't so much. We know a man who saw a plumber move.

Recent army tests show that shooting at airplanes is about like throwing rocks at birds.

More farm-boat is planned. Running a farm seems to pay about as well as sending a boy to college.

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF WATER USERS' CONFERENCE IS DETAILED

Following is a stenographic report of the important phases of the conference this morning between Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work and Reclamation Commissioner Elwood Mead with the directors and members of the Klamath Irrigation district.

Mr. Work: It is our purpose in coming out here to get first hand information so that the water users could talk to us. They are the people we are principally interested in. Reclamation has been going on under federal supervision for some twenty four years and it has not been a success in every case. It is the purpose of this visit to find out the trouble if it is possible, so that we can arrive at the determination of a remedy a little later.

First, I would like to ask if the water users approve of this open letter addressed to me. (This has reference to the open letter of the Evening Herald in the issue of the 7th. Ed.)

Mr. Bradbury: Yes, they do. Mr. Work: The reason I ask is, that in one of the last paragraphs it says that the water users do approve of what is said in this letter and if any doubt is felt on that matter, signatures will be obtained, so that if all agree that the letter is what the water users have in mind themselves, if they approve of this, that of course will make a great deal of difference.

Mr. Thomas: Dr. Work, we had rather tell you now what the water users want.

Dr. Work: You want me to ignore this letter?

Mr. Thomas: No, we do not.

Dr. Work: If this letter stands for what is in the minds of the water users, that gives me a good idea to start with.

Mr. Bradbury: Mr. Secretary, I believe in order to bring this to a definite point, we will ask to discuss certain questions here.

Mr. Work: Now, gentlemen, we will proceed with this hearing and say what is on our minds, and, of course, the time is limited. We do not want to curtail any necessary information, but do not get too far afield. Each speaker will please give their name.

Mr. Bradbury: R. E. Bradbury, chairman of the Klamath Irrigation district board of directors.

The first subject that I desire to touch on and which is a matter that is now being negotiated is the contract between the United States and the district involving the taking over of the project by the district, and the matter of the delinquent taxes and the matter of the moratorium. The subject that I am going to discuss at this moment is that of the delinquent taxes. This project is in a peculiar situation, and while it does not appear on the Reclamation books as owing any great sum of money, there is a delinquency of taxes against the land owners of something over \$100,000. I do not know the exact figures. We have had accountants on these figures for the past ten days but their report is not yet complete. We are not asking the Secretary of the Government to forgive us those taxes, but we do ask that we be permitted, under an act of the Oregon legislature of the last session to obtain the consent of the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw these delinquencies from the roll and reappportion them, either by having them charged to the construction cost of the project or permitting the district to extend them over a period of years. We believe we can, if necessary, to a very great extent, and we believe that it is necessary, to save a great many of our farmers from the loss of their property, and financially crippling the project. There are 618 parcels of land involved—something like 11,000 acres, which is practically more than one-fourth of our project. That is a matter that we can take up through the regular channels and through the department, and we would like to have a favorable action permitting us to remove these taxes from the Klamath county roll and redistribute them. The penalties and interest are such an amount that in some instances they exceed seventy per cent and over, of the original assessment.

Dr. Work—How many delinquents are there, about?
Mr. Bradbury—About 153 delinquents.

Dr. Work—How many have met their payments?
Mr. Bradbury—Well, there are about 550 water users. Of course, it is understood that this is only what we have at hand.

Mr. Work—Proceed, go right along.

Mr. Bradbury—I believe that covers the delinquent tax situation for the present. Now another matter of importance to this district, and one that we are facing now is

the matter of town and industrial property. The town is rapidly growing and extending into the country, and we have some land near the town that is strictly a town site. In some cases the land has been assessed for years, but has never had any water. And a large sawmill owner notified me the other day that they would, in the near future, have their land excluded from the district. Of course, you understand that that land, although withdrawing from the district and not receiving any benefit from the district, is still held by its lien to the government. We believe it would simplify matters to take advantage of a state law which was passed recently in this connection.

The next matter that I desire to touch on here will be the matter of town and industrial property. There has been some four or five allocations of cost made on the Klamath project. Two or three public notices which were based on separate allocations of cost. Within the last year I understand that there is a so-called Koppen allocation of costs. While it is understood it has kept within the outside figures that we owe the United States, that part is true, and we admit that we are not asking any more money, but they have changed the items that went to make up this total sum and the changes made of these items has resulted in depriving the district of property and in other instances—there is a further object in a re-allocation of the cost of this project and that is to bring the cost of the entire project to a more uniform basis, and not have such great discrepancies between the various units of the project. It is my contention and I believe the contention of a great many that the best value of a project is its water supply, and that is the only source the government has to regain the money spent on the project. I believe on this project this plan has not been carried out. While the various units of the project have been charged on the basis of the amount of water used, this does not fully cover the situation. I might illustrate in this way. That while the main canal of the Klamath Irrigation district will hold from 1200 s. f. to 1600 s. f. there is five times that amount of water used for power purposes out of the reservoir that was purchased by the government for reclamation. I maintain that it is unfair for all the land of the project to have to bear the cost of the reservoir and permit the individual use of those reservoirs, free of charge, which it virtually amounts to at this time. I might say that there is a contract which is supposed to justify the allocation as it now stands, and the allowance of water to the Power company on the basis that this water is used partly for pumping plants, that the Klamath Irrigation district which is one of the major portions of the project, and is bearing the major cost of the project, in no wise benefits from that sale of water. We have no pumping and no use for power for agricultural purposes. At this time we desire to enter our protest to the Koppen allocation and we desire that the allocation be entirely reconsidered.

That is all.
Charles Wood Eberlein.
Dr. Work—What are your conclusions now?
Mr. Eberlein—Private citizen and water user.

Dr. Work—You are a water user?

Mr. Eberlein—Yes sir.

Mr. Eberlein—Previously I was an officer of the Southern Pacific during the times to which I am testifying, having charge of all land, timber and other matters for the Harriman interests, reporting to Mr. Harriman, having an office in New York, San Francisco and Portland.

In 1904 there was a great deal of trouble in the interior department, especially the Reclamation Service, in regard to this Klamath project. Some very important state legislation was required at that time to make the lake beds available. They had to be ceded to the United States before this project could go on. I was called into consultation on the first of January, 1905, and I was asked to and did succeed in getting through these acts, and they were passed in January, that year.

When that was done Mr. Newell came to my office in New York and said: "We have passed that crisis, but have come to one that is equally bad. The government cannot spend four or five million dollars, all told, in putting in an irrigation system sixty or a hundred miles from a main line road. I want your assistance in bringing this

matter to the attention of Mr. Harriman. The government cannot ask people to go there and settle except in good faith. They cannot compete with northern California in that way. A branch line projecting in there eighty miles long will not do." Which was all true. The result was a number of conferences in New York and the final outcome was the promise of a main line, and that main line is this Natron cut-off, as it is called, but that does not start up here as is supposed, but starts from Nevada. Mr. Harriman died in 1909, and immediately his plans were dropped, so far as this construction is concerned, and are only now being revived. Now, I have before me here the original survey of the Southern Pacific on this line which runs through this project. When you go down there I wish you particularly to look at that development south of Adams' point. Those miles from any rail connection, and men are down there thirty or forty miles from any rail connection, and they have kept their agreement with the government. The trouble on this project is that—beginning with 1902, when the slump came—those men would not be in the condition that they are today if the promise the government made to them had been kept.

Mr. Work—The question resolves itself into this, then, I take it. The Power company put in this dam. You fear that in making power thru the winter they will draw down the storage for the summer. You believe that is the property of the district and should not have been sold or given away. Aside from that you have no objection to that. Is that right?

Mr. Bradbury—I have no objection to the company as a business, but I object to it using the property that was acquired and maintained for the purposes of irrigation, and we believe that if there was water to sell from that reservoir that it should be sold under the law, by act of congress, which provides that the water should be sold and credited to the project.

Mr. Work—They are using this water to make power with?

Mr. Bradbury—Yes.

Mr. Work—And you think the power facilities should have been retained in the interest of the project itself?

Mr. Bradbury—I do.

Mr. Work—Where does this money go to from this project?

Mr. Bradbury—I believe it is credited to the project. I might say this. That in the matter of the sale, the Klamath Water Users, the institution before the Irrigation district took place here, wanted to take the power sites and pay for them. Now then this project has paid its balance, and is not in arrears to the government, but the reason for the sale was that it reimbursed the government to the extent of \$120,000.00, and the conditions of the sale made it possible for the district to come in as a bidder, and it was our proposition to pay the United States that portion which was not allocated to the Klamath Irrigation district and reimburse the government, but we were duped that right. Now as to where that money—\$120,000 goes. It is extended over a period of ten years. You are virtually giving it to the Power company. I cannot see how the government benefits to any extent from it. We have always wanted to pay for it.

Com. Mead—Didn't the district own it until July, 1916?

Mr. Bradbury—The Ankeny canal was acquired and water rights that had been in existence for twenty years prior to the time when the United States became interested a total 4935 s. f., or actually more water than the Klamath water shed affords.

Mr. Work—Is this dam of any use to control water for the summer?

Mr. Bradbury—Absolutely not at all. I might say this. You take the water falls through a period of years, and the crest of the irrigation season comes in June and the latter part of July, and the records will show that at the time the water flow of the river is sufficient to furnish the canals. 205 s. f. was the only obligation the government had to meet in that lake.

Mr. Work—Is the use or operation of this power company diminishing the supply of water on the project until now?

Mr. Bradbury—Not shortage because of the power, but we have had our water level in danger.

Mr. Work—Have they depleted your water supply up until now?

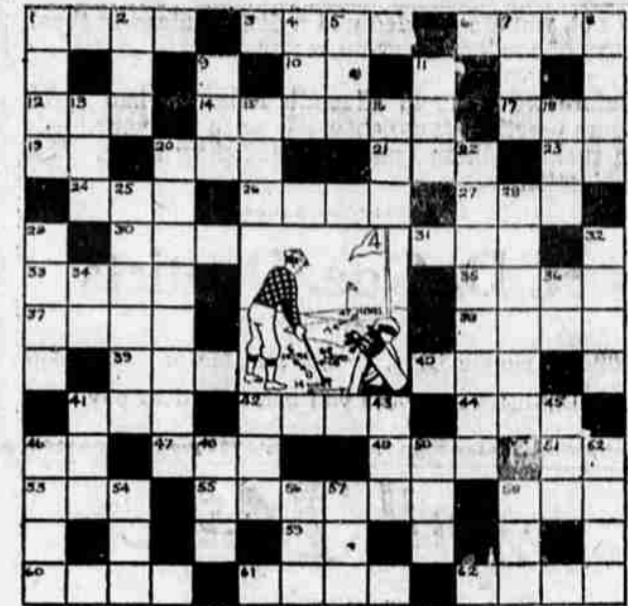
Mr. Thomas—No, not up until now.

Mr. Work—We are irrigationists by federal irrigation, and I am not interested in them as long as they do not interfere with our purpose of reclamation by irrigation.

Mr. Thomas—Well, do not lose sight of our contention. We want to make this thing broad enough to say that this generation and people here have no right to cheat the future generation.

Mr. Work—You are absolutely

TODAY'S CROSS WORD PUZZLE



HORIZONTAL

- Game played in picture.
- Part of golf club which strikes ball.
- See picture.
- Negative.
- Wrath (inspired by 140 score).
- See picture (boy who carries sticks).
- Length of time it takes to play a good game.
- Jumbled type.
- Snake-like fish.
- Meadow.
- To accomplish.
- Perfect score.
- Green ground along a river (in plural name of golf course).
- To stuff.
- To attempt.
- To fit.
- Altar.
- Uncommon.
- Departing guest.
- Boasts of barbed.
- To clip.
- Chief linguist stock of Indochina.
- Paid publicity (pl).
- Warning cry of a golfer before a drive.
- Automobile.
- Indefinite article.
- See picture.
- Exclamation of disgust.
- Like.
- Laundry for washing ones.
- Dab again.
- Provident insect.
- Correlative of either.
- To play of golf ball into the hole.
- State of excitement.
- See picture.

VERTICAL

- To grasp golf club.
- Position of ball in relation to its surroundings on the course.
- Common conjunction.
- Fish caught around New England.
- Refreshing beverage secured at

club house.

- Light cotton fabric (unkeyed letter "e").
- Something cold put in beverage.
- A tear in the clothes.
- Altogether.
- Kind.
- One more stroke than your opponent makes.
- One who encourages error.
- A stroke to land ball on putting green.
- To be present at.
- Lack of power to co-ordinate voluntary muscular movements (or why I can't play.)
- Low, heavy clouds.
- A small hole in the turf.
- Toward.
- Second note in scale.
- Some.
- Money paid to the "pro".
- To retire or recede.
- Played on ground instead of lofting ball.
- Upon.
- To sin.
- Tree with tough wood.
- To thrust.
- To dine.
- Period.
- Part of verb to be.
- To be sick.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ROLLS BATHING
REVEALS OUTRAGE
OPEN FIELD BERGS
S ROT DAD MAD S
TO SAG R GOT HA
WE BAA CUT MAY
READ SCARY DAMS
GIN TIE TON
SEED CORAL TIER
PER CAR MOB ARE
AL GADT WOST IT
N AUK HIP APT I
KALE PAPAL ARIL
SIESTAS TORRENT
METTOL TAKEN

right. Do not mortgage the future.

Mr. Thomas—No one knows what that will be worth to our children and grandchildren. We are trying to establish ourselves to the benefit of our government. And these people say it is to the benefit of the town.

Mr. Work—The benefit of the town is to develop the county around it. I want to make clear what the purpose of the reclamation service is, and the policy of it, and that is to benefit the interest of the people so that they may be able to make homes. Many of the projects have failed and others are failing. We want to clear up the thing and see what property is worth and what they should pay for it.

Mr. Thomas—You do not know how much we appreciate that attitude, Doctor.

Mr. Work—We want to work with you people to cure the troubles of this project.

So that we may understand each other, and I imagine we do. When I came into this service this was one of my inheritances, the reclamation situation. I set about to make a property accounting, which I did. It was made from the figures found in the reclamation service, as faithfully as it could be made. Then we called this Fact Finding commission together and called for an accounting, which they did. When that was done they pre-dicated a bill for an act which has since been passed. Now then, it develops in the investigations of this Fact Finding commission that very ambitious promises were held out at first. That so many acres would be irrigated and the cost would be so much. If so, then the acreage cost would be so much. That was simple as a matter of mathematics, but it is like the old story of the dog and the rat. On much of the project the cost of the construction was two, three or four times more than promised. Those facts made it necessary for us to proceed on a definite plan, and we appointed arbitrators to go over these projects and determine first, how much land

was irrigated and how much could be irrigated, what the construction cost, was etc. After that is all done, during the summer, we will get these together. It is the biggest thing that was ever undertaken in the department of the interior, and we are held responsible for all the mistakes and promises that were made by the department in the beginning. They have failed. They were dam-builders and did not seem to be much concerned, when they ran out of money they went to congress. They worked together with their congressmen and got more money. The project did not have to pay it back. It was an easy time, but the time has come for settlement. We are going to make recommendations. Some will be drastic and some will be unpopular. I am going to make recommendations to congress and whether they are popular or unpopular does not matter. That is the object of this meeting. We carry a message of hope this far that we are going to work with the people on the other end. Unless reclamation can be made to succeed from the terminal end, Federal reclamation will fail. I think with this statement you will understand what our ideas are. I am a farmer. I have irrigated every year for 25 years. I have lost sometimes but not if I could avoid it. I know the heart-breaking situation on the reclamation projects because I have lived among them. I have practiced medicine in a one-room house with a heartbroken wife in it. It is about time the government recognizes the situation.

Dr. Mead—I want to ask two questions to clear up some matters that I am anxious to know. I want to know how much you understand the Power company has expended in its development here under this contract. How much money?

Mr. Bradbury—I have no figures, Dr. Mead. I could not say that any have been published.

(Continued on Page Eight)