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THE KLAMATH PROJECT

SPARSELY SETTLED REGION TO BE TRANSFORMED BY IRRIGATION

The Most Feasible and the Least Expensive of Any of the Irrigation Projects Undertaken By the United States Government.

By E. I. APPLIGATE, Secretary Klamath Water Users Association.

In southeastern Oregon and northern California is a vast interior plateau region, cut off from the outside world by mountain barriers and arid expanses sparsely settled, and until recently wholly without transportation facilities—wonderfully rich in its possibilities and only awaiting the enterprise and capital of man for its development. Within this territory and occupying the upper drainage system of the Klamath River is the Klamath Basin in which is situated the Klamath Valley and the tributary, smaller valley of Lost River. The whole, including lakes and contiguous swamps, aggregates about 300,000 acres, and has a mean elevation of about 4200 feet above sea level. Nearly all of this area is to be reclaimed and irrigated by the government under what is known as the Klamath Project. About half of it consists of tule and lake lands to be drained and prepared for irrigation and cultivation. The other portion is composed of foothill and somewhat undulating plains lands covered with the characteristic sagebrush of the great interior basin of the west. The upland soil is mainly a rich sandy loam of great uniformity and composed largely of disintegrated and eroded lava with an admixture of volcanic ash and diatomaceous earth, the latter material of plant origin formed in the bottom of the ancient sea which covered the great part of the Great Basin and of which Klamath Valley is a northwesterly extension. Such soil, characteristic of many of the richest agricultural regions of the world, including much of Italy and the great plains of India, is extremely fertile and of lasting productivity. The lake and tule lands are made up of a volcanic soil containing much organic matter, a vegetable accumulation of ages, and is of a pretty nature.

For a region of high altitude, the climate, while good, is extremely healthful and not severe. There is rarely any winter weather before the latter part of December, and but little zero weather during the entire winter. The annual precipitation is about 15 inches with little rain during the summer months. Irrigation is therefore necessary for the successful growing of most crops.

The Klamath Project is one of the most feasible and is the least expensive of any of the government projects thus far undertaken. There is an abundance of water above the land, and ample natural reservoirs. By deepening the cut through the broken rock rim of the Basin at the point where the Klamath River enters the pass through the Cascade Mountains, the waters of the lower lakes and swamps can be drawn off and the land reclaimed. Bids for the initial work of the great enterprise have been advertised for, and the system will be completed as rapidly as the land owners can adjust themselves to the new conditions, and excess lands come into the hands of persons qualified to perfect a government water right. With the object of making homes for as many families as possible, such right will be sold to any one owner for a tract of land exceeding 100 acres and only to a resident of the irrigation district. All landowners being required to sell their excess holdings, there is a large area of good land for sale at reasonable figures, prices ranging from about \$10 to \$25 for unimproved and \$20 to \$50 for improved land. The purchaser pays for the water right at a cost of about \$18 per acre to be paid for in ten equal annual installments without interest. This amounts to less than the ordinary annual water rental paid private ditch companies.

Some of the irrigators of the Klamath valley, and they are the most prosperous farmers, have already paid out to such companies for water \$60 per acre and own no water. All of these companies have been purchased by the government and included in the system.

No public lands will be open for settlement for several years. Practically all such lands are now under water. When thoroughly reclaimed and ready for cultivation they will be subject to homestead entry in small tracts, probably not exceeding 80 acres.

With a present population of less than 5000 under the project, there is room for thousands of comfortable homes, and more than ten times as many people.

The principal industry of the Basin has been and is stockraising, lack of transportation facilities making it impossible to market other produce. This will doubtless continue to be the leading industry for some time to come. About 20,000 acres are now under irrigation, most of which area is growing alfalfa, which has become an important feeding ground not only for stock raised in the Basin, but for many that are driven in from the great ranges tributary. The time is coming when each farmer will raise some good stock and give it better care, and the number brought in from the interior ranges will be increased many fold, making this one of the largest and best feeding grounds and stock producing sections on the coast. The fattening quality of the feed and the climatic conditions are particularly favorable. The geographic position makes it a splendid distributing point.

Occupying an intermediate position with reference to the great semi-arid plains of the interior and the more humid coast region with which it is connected by the low Klamath Gap in the Cascade range of mountains, the climatic conditions are more favorable for agriculture than the greater part of interior Oregon and northern California. Many of the plants characteristic of the coast region find their eastern limit in the Klamath Basin and fraternize with their desert cousins, while several of the forest trees of the north, including the Alaska Cedar, following the Cascades, meet here other species in their northern march.

The first settlers came into the Basin about 25 years ago. For a number of years farming implements were almost unknown, stock being pastured on the public lands and a little natural marsh grass provided for winter feeding, some not even doing this. Flour and other produce was brought across the mountains by wagon or pack train. Soon considerable rye was grown. In a few years it was demonstrated that a great part of the Klamath valley was adapted to the growing of other grains, the only difficulty being the lack of rain during some seasons. Immense crops of splendid wheat, barley and oats are grown under irrigation. Klamath county wheat, grown without irrigation, took the premium at the New Orleans Exposition. The most important forage crop is alfalfa, the soil being peculiarly adapted to its growth. The hardier fruits and vegetables do well. At present there are comparatively few bearing orchards, although a few small apple orchards were planted about 30 years ago. Since coming into bearing they have produced abundantly and of exceptional quality, with little care and no systematic attempt to prevent or eradicate insect or fungus diseases. During the last few years a good many small orchards have been planted in the Klamath valley and, where properly

care for, are doing well. Mr. E. L. Smith, president of the Oregon State Board of Horticulture, who visited the valley this season, gave it as his opinion that the foothill lands are specially adapted to apple growing. Plums, prunes and pears do well also. The native wild plum (*Prunus subcordata*) occurs in great abundance and reaches its highest development.

One of Burbank's famous plums is the result of a cross between this wild plum and a cultivated variety. The cultivation of the potato has passed beyond the experimental stage, the sandy loam of the uplands producing them in great abundance. Sugar beets have been grown experimentally throughout the Klamath valley. The percentage of sugar is high as will be noted from the following analysis made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from beets grown near Klamath Falls:

Average weight of beets	13 oz.
Sugar in beets, per cent	21.7
Sugar in juice, per cent	24.1
Coefficient of purity	83.1

In some of the more favored localities, notably along Link River at Klamath Falls, some of the more tender fruits and vegetables are grown, including peaches, apricots, grapes, corn and melons. During most seasons squashes are raised in many places. Hops do well in some places. The tule lands might produce profitable crops of cranberries. According to a recent bulletin of the Department of Agriculture "The conditions necessary for success in cranberry culture are soils of a peaty or alvial nature, located at high altitudes or in high latitudes and provided with an ample and easily available water supply and with an easily accessible supply of sand." All of which conditions are certainly present. Several closely allied species of berries occur, and the native cranberry is found farther north. Experience has demonstrated that excellent asparagus, onions and celery can be grown, the tule lands being very similar to those of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys of California, where such vegetables are so successfully cultivated. Throughout the world the reclaimed marshlands are the best suited for the highest development of the dairy interests, producing the best grasses and other forage plants necessary.

Doubtless the introduction of improved methods and the careful study of the peculiar soil and climatic conditions of the different localities will result in the establishment of many new lines of profitable agriculture not heretofore undertaken. The Government contemplates operating an experimental farm in connection with the Klamath project which will do much toward determining the crops adapted to these conditions.

For its development and prosperity the Klamath Basin must have people, and the right kind of people at that. Its great need is intelligent, practical farmers who understand the meaning of intensified and diversified farming, men who will buy land not for speculative purposes but with the idea of clearing off the sagebrush and making permanent and comfortable homes. Such men are bound to succeed. There is room for thousands of them.

With all that nature has supplied, with all that the Government and the railroads are furnishing, the coming of the actual tiler of the soil and the elimination of the boom spirit would be the most important factors in the development of the great agricultural resources of the Klamath Basin.—Orchard and Farm.

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SUMMONS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF KLAMATH.
Leah M. Wells, Plaintiff,
vs.
Frank A. Wells, Defendant.
To Frank A. Wells, the above named defendant:

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:—You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit on or before the 22nd day of December, 1905, that being the last day for appearance or answer by you. Fled by the order of the said court for the publication of this summons, and if you fail so to appear or answer, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in her complaint herein, to-wit:—

First: That the bonds of matrimony existing between herself and defendant be dissolved and that the care and custody of the minor children of the plaintiff and defendant be awarded to plaintiff.
Second: That plaintiff recover her costs and disbursements herein expended and that she have such other and farther relief as may

seem meet with equity and good conscience. This summons is published in the Klamath Republican by order of Hon. H. L. Benson, Judge of the above named court, made and entered of record on the second day of November, 1905. The first publication to be on the ninth day of November, 1905, and the defendant being required to answer on or before the twenty-second day of December, 1905.
C. C. Brewer,
Attorney for Plaintiff.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Klamath.
Martha E. Hoyt, Plaintiff,
vs.
John Amherst Hoyt, Defendant.
To John Amherst Hoyt, Defendant herein: In the name of the State of Oregon: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit, on or before Saturday the 20th day of January, 1906, being the last day of the time prescribed in the order for the publication of this summons, the first publication thereof being on the 30th day of November, 1905, and if you fail so to appear and answer, for want thereof, the plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief prayed for in the said complaint, to-wit:—

For a decree of the Court dissolving the bonds of matrimony now existing between the said plaintiff and defendant, and for such further and general relief as to the Court may seem just and in accordance with law and equity.

This summons is served by publication thereof in the Klamath Republican, by order of the Hon. Henry L. Benson, Judge of said Court, dated the 20th day of November, 1905, requiring this summons to be published once a week for at least six consecutive weeks, and covering a period of continuous publication of at least forty-two days.
THOMAS DRAKE,
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

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The following is one among a number of similar letters received:
PROF. RITNER AND MISS RITNER, Ashland, Oregon.
Dear Teachers—Perhaps you will be pleased to learn that I am holding a position as stenographer with S. Steinhilber & Son, wholesalers and jobbers of grocery and glassware, here in San Francisco. I have been with the firm three months and am doing nicely. However, I owe this position to what I learned in your college, and I think if I had not learned shorthand before I came to the city I never would have landed it, because I could not get down to hard study as there is so much going on here. Yours very respectfully,
J. F. GURLEY.

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