

CHARGES FELL FLAT

Great Upheaval Failed
to Materialize

NO FACTS ARE PRODUCED

A Thorough Examination
is Made by Secretary
and Director

Bright and early the Secretary was on hand for the tour of inspection of the work already done. The trip extended to the Olene gap and consumed most of Saturday forenoon.

At 2 o'clock the 30-minute reception at the Inland Club was held but on account of a misunderstanding as to the hour, few attended, the impression prevailing that it was to be held from 2:30 to 3. As a result there were many people disappointed.

Following the reception at the Club, the Secretary boarded the Steamer Klamath, and it was on this trip that the most interesting features of his visit came to the surface. Everyone knows that there has been dissatisfaction among some and charges were made time and again about this, that and the other thing. When it was announced that the Secretary was coming, those who have been making the charges began to plumb their feathers and sharpen their knife. Threats were made about what would happen after they got through with the Secretary. The entire management of the Klamath Project was to be changed and reorganization was going to be the war cry.

The steamer had just gotten nicely under way and the Secretary had settled himself back comfortably, when Director Stevenson introduced himself, and after a few preliminaries, launched forth with the story that has been troubling his mind in the daytime and his dreams at night. It was the first gun that was to sweep from the citadel the last vestige of opposition to his wishes relative to the conduct of affairs throughout the Klamath Project and forever level any interference with his plans. This is how it started:

"Mr. Secretary, I want to enter a protest," was the way Mr. Stevenson got under way. It was a hard matter for him to strike his gait, but he seemed to feel sure that once he got it, all that some people would see would be the dust he would raise.

"A protest! About what?" The Secretary has a peculiar manner of firing a question at a man. He seems to snap it out and start it on its way with a suppressed energy that drives it home with lightning rapidity.

Stevenson: "About the management of affairs in the construction of the Klamath Project."

Garfield: "That is strange. I had a business meeting with the Board of Directors of the Water Users Association yesterday, and I heard no criticism as to the manner in which the Service is constructing the Klamath Project."

Stevenson: "Well, I am a member of the Board of Directors, and I want to make a protest."

Garfield: "How many directors are there?"

Stevenson: "Nine."

Garfield: "If you had a protest to make or any criticism to offer, why were you not present at the meeting yesterday to make it then?"

Stevenson: "I was detained in the city and could not go along with the party."

Garfield: "Well, if you have any facts to offer I will be glad to listen to them, but you must remember that I must be governed by the majority of the Board. Mr. Newell is here and you may take the matter up with him and submit any facts you have to that gentleman and they will receive careful consideration."

Mr. Stevenson then proceeded to present to Mr. Newell, in the presence of the Secretary, the charges he has had in mind ever since he was elected a director and long before. It must be admitted that he made a very poor showing, for after listening to the conversation for about ten minutes, the Secretary seemed to weary of the affair and got up and left. Mr. Newell listened to everything that Mr. Stevenson had to say, and following each charge he would question that gentleman as to the facts,

in order to enable him to run the matter down and make a thorough investigation. In no case was Mr. Stevenson able to make good, with one exception. This was in regard to a lateral that he claimed would not carry water after it was finished. He was able to give the location of the lateral and the name of the engineer under whose charge the work was done. Prior to Mr. Garfield leaving Mr. Stevenson made the statement, in reply to Mr. Newell's remark that the Service would be glad to consider bids whenever they were submitted in writing, that he knew of one case where a bid was submitted and that the gentleman was told by Mr. Murphy that he would bear the matter in mind; that two days thereafter the work in question was commenced under force account, without any opportunity being given the man to undertake it. Mr. Murphy was called up by the Secretary and asked if the statement was true and if a bid had been submitted. Mr. Murphy stated that no such bid had been received.

Again Mr. Stevenson brought up the matter of the offer of Mr. Mason to construct all of the project at the estimated cost, or less, and that this offer had been brought to the attention of Mr. Murphy. This Mr. Murphy denied. Mr. Stevenson stated that it was and that the man who made it was on board the steamer. Mr. Murphy asked him to get the gentleman and Mr. Stevenson proceeded to do so, but failed to carry out his purpose.

Relative to this offer the Secretary stated: "You can tell the gentleman you refer to that if he will submit his offer in proper form that it will have the most careful consideration." On this subject Mr. Newell also stated: "If Mr. Mason wishes to undertake the construction of the project on such conditions the Service will be glad to consider his offer. He should submit his plans and specifications, either as prepared by us or modified according to his ideas and they will be carefully considered. We are only too glad to have the work done by contractor and no reasonable offer of any contractor will be ignored."

One of the interesting spectators was Senator Fulton. He took up the question of Mr. Mason's offer, and suggested that he be permitted to make an offer along the lines he had in mind. To this Mr. Newell readily assented. "The great trouble we experience," stated Mr. Newell, "is in the fact that contractors find no fault until after the bids are opened. They go ahead and bid on the plans and specifications and submit a bid accordingly. Then after the announcement is made they state that, if they could have had more time they would have taken it for less. They never submit an alternative bid. These alternative bids we are always glad to consider. If the time limit is too short then let the contractor submit an alternative bid making an offer to do the work if granted more time. Likewise with any other proposition to which he wishes to make an exception."

"When bids were asked for the second unit and the north and south Poe Valley laterals and no satisfactory bid received, Mr. Murphy cut up the work into small sections of 10,000 yards each and advertised for bids. He did not receive a single offer. Those who might have wished to undertake the work could have had until the first of next October in which to complete their contract. The Service was ready to offer all the assistance possible to those who would undertake these small contracts, but no one came forward."

Senator Fulton then took up the question of the cost of force account. "I think, Mr. Newell," he said, "that the people are entitled to this information. If the work can be done as cheap or cheaper by force account as it can by contract, and you know that I do not think it can be, then there can be no harm in letting the public know it. If it cannot, then the people ought to know it in order that they may be able to enter protest against the piling up of the cost."

"I quite agree with you, Senator," replied Mr. Newell, "relative to the making public of force account. The Secretary of the Interior has already advised the Board of Directors of the Water Users Association that an authorized agent of the association can get these figures at any time. That matter was settled some time ago. We have been furnishing these figures to the associations in some of the other projects and there is no reason why they will not be furnished here. Relative to the cost of force account the Service has no doubt. We have been and are doing it cheaper than the offer of the contractors."

Senator Fulton: "I am informed that you received an offer for the Keno canal of 75, 85 and \$1, and that the cost of this work as done by force account is above that figure."

Mr. Garfield: "Yes, we received an offer from contractors for doing this

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GARFIELD AND NEWELL

Make a Thorough Examination of
Conditions in Klamath

DIRECTORS PRESENT FACTS

Many Questions are Settled—Cost of Force Account
to be Made Public—Other Important Matters
are to be Settled Soon.

As a result of the visit of Secretary Garfield and Director Newell the following questions were settled:

That an authorized agent of the Water Users Association can secure data as to the cost of force account. This was conceded by the Secretary at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on board the Steamer Winema enroute from Odessa Friday.

That the Water Users Association can submit bids for the construction of any portion of the Project, but in doing so it will be treated as any other contractor, no special privileges being granted.

The question of the commencement of payments on land immediately following the delivery of the water will be taken up at once and a definite decision reached.

That the cost of forced account is less than contract work, as evidenced by the result on the Keno canal, where the bid was 75, 80 and \$1.00. Under force account it is being done for 35, 50 and 80 cents.

That bids for the construction of the Clear Lake dam will probably be advertised for this year.

That all bids will be considered, whether based on the plans and specifications or submitted in a modified form; but they must be submitted in writing.

That Mason, Davis & Co., or any other firm, person or corporation may submit a bid for the construction of the entire project at the estimated cost, and that it will receive the careful consideration its importance demands.

That in the Secretary of the Interior the people of Klamath have a champion, a man who will give them a square deal and one to whom they need have no fear of going if they have a just cause to complain.

The long anticipated visit to Klamath County of Secretary of the Interior Garfield, Director Newell and party was made last week and as a result many of the questions that have been agitating the public mind for the past year have been definitely settled. Two views are expressed as to the result of the visit: One of optimism and one of pessimism. There is no real cause for the latter, but there are many reasons for the people of the county to feel elated that the Secretary and Director came here.

On Friday morning the reception committee, consisting of the Board of Directors, secretary, treasurer and attorney of the Water Users Association, three members of the Inland Empire Club and three members of the Chamber of Commerce, the mayor, vice president of the Development League and one delegate at large, met Secretary Garfield at Pelican Bay. Every member of the delegation was surprised with him. There was nothing of the austere about the man. It was free and easy from the start and everyone felt at home. There was no circumlocution necessary to gain an audience. All that one had to do was to wade in and he always had a hearing. If there is a man in Klamath County who wanted to meet the Secretary and did not, there is no one to blame for it but himself. After the few formalities incident to the meeting were dispensed with the party boarded the Steamer Winema and went to Odessa for lunch. Mrs. Griffith was prepared for the occasion and bided herself. The Secretary expressed his pleasure over the bountiful repast and complimented the hostess on her efforts.

It was at Odessa that the first indication of the Secretary's desire to get down to business was manifested. It was suggested that a business meeting of the Board of Directors be held on the way back to Klamath Falls. The Secretary was consulted on the subject and readily consented, asking when the party was going to return. There yet remained an hour and a half, but he asked that the start be made at once and a slow run made, in order that plenty of time might be had to go over matters.

As soon as the boat was under way the Directors went into executive session with the Secretary. Every detail of the project was gone over and the result of the meeting can be boiled down to

four propositions. J. Frank Adams acted as the spokesman of the meeting: First was the pushing of the project. This was urged with all earnestness by every member present and the Secretary replied that while he desired to accede to the wishes of the people here, it would be necessary to take that matter up with Director Newell. If he had his wish he would rush to completion every project now under construction, but he was necessarily limited by conditions and funds.

The question of the construction of the Clear Lake dam was likewise referred to Director Newell.

Second, the proposition of allowing land owners to make small payments at the beginning. It was explained to the Secretary that it was easier for a farmer to pay two or three times the amount after the first three years, and that instead of making the equal payment plan start at the time the water was turned on, it ought to be reduced to a minimum and the loss made up during the last seven years. The Secretary thought the idea was a good one, and made a note of it.

Third, that payments should begin as soon as the water was ready for delivery. Heretofore it has been supposed that payments would begin on first unit next year, but as to this there is no certainty. The reason for this is the uncertainty as to the cost of the project. It was urged that the farmers be allowed to pay a maximum or a minimum amount and that they receive credit therefor and that the provisions of the Reclamation act be enforced relative to the segregation of the lands. The Secretary replied that this was one of the questions that would come up for consideration later; that the same conditions existed in other projects and that some adjustment of the matter would be made that would be beneficial to the farmer and the Service alike.

Fourth, that after the cost of maintenance was deducted from the \$1.50 an acre now being charged for water, the amount remaining would be placed to the credit of the farmer paying the same and be applied on the cost of reclamation. This matter the Secretary also made a note of and stated that he would take it up with the Director.

The question of the Board of Directors securing a statement of the cost of Force Account was also brought to the

attention of the Secretary and he was asked that he direct that the Board be enabled to secure these figures. The Directors were much surprised and gratified to learn that this matter had already been adjusted and that orders had been issued enabling the authorized agent of the Board to secure this data at stated intervals, preferably quarterly.

He asked the members of the Board if there was any complaint to make relative to the manner in which the work was being conducted, and he was informed that the only criticism forthcoming was the one already offered, that it was not moving fast enough.

Mr. Adams brought up the question of the Water Users Association undertaking the construction of the project by contract and asked if there was anything in the Reclamation act that prevented it from doing so. The Secretary stated that there was nothing that he knew of that would act as a barrier and that if the association wished to go into the matter, it would be treated just the same as any other individual or contractor.

He was asked if the government would loan the association any of the equipment owned by it or would it advance any funds to enable the association to carry on the work. He replied that that would be impossible under the law. That when the association entered the field as a contracting firm it did so just as any other firm and would have to be treated accordingly.

The question of the setting the cost of the project was brought up next and to this the Secretary replied that it would be impossible to do so at this time. His attention was called to the construction placed on the reclamation act in this section, that it was the duty of the Secretary to announce the cost after the contracts were let. He stated that the construction he placed on it was that it was the duty of the Secretary to announce the cost after the last contract was let, or as soon before that time as he deemed it advisable to do so with accuracy. It was manifestly impossible to set a figure that might afterwards prove inadequate or excessive. In the Klamath Project there are too many assumptions to be made at this time to admit of a setting of a figure and that this would not be done until the work had progressed sufficiently to enable the engineers to furnish one that would be approximately correct.

At the conclusion of the meeting those present engaged in a free-for-all conversation, during which the Secretary expressed his gratification over the fact that there was so much harmony prevailing here and that the Service was giving such general satisfaction.

The boat arrived at the landing at 5 o'clock. It was met by Project Engineer Murphy and Engineers Sargent and Wardwell. Arrangements had been made to take the Secretary and Director Newell down the main canal and through the tunnel in row boats and he evinced much satisfaction over the fact that he would take the trip. The boats were boarded at the headgates and the party landed at a point opposite the Long Lake Lumber Company's planing mill. From there they were taken in carriages, Secretary Garfield and Director Newell to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Nafziger, where they were entertained during their stay here, and the rest of the party to the Lakeside Inn.

When Project Engineer Murphy met the party at Medford, he asked the Secretary if it would be agreeable to him to attend a public meeting Friday evening, where he would address the people and give them an opportunity to meet him. He expressed his pleasure with such a proceeding, and Mr. Murphy accordingly telegraphed President Martin to make the announcement and arrange the program accordingly. The Secretary also suggested that, inasmuch as an opportunity would be afforded the people to meet him Friday evening, the reception at the Inland Empire Club be shortened to thirty minutes and the time saved be given to a more extended trip on the Lower lake, as he desired to see all of that section possible. Accordingly this was done.

At eight o'clock an immense throng gathered in the court house park to hear and meet Secretary Garfield and Director Newell. Both gentlemen were warmly received as they mounted the platform. President Martin, of the Water Users Association, presided and introduced the speakers. Mr. Garfield was the first speaker, and said in part:

SECRETARY GARFIELD'S SPEECH

"My trip to the West is for the purpose of getting acquainted with the men who are engaged in the active work of reclamation and caring for public lands, forest reserves and Indian reservations."

"The Interior Department is engaged in a work particularly interesting to the people of the West. In considering the question of reclamation in this section of the country, you must remember that there are other sections of the West facing the same problems. You have here

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SENATOR FULTON

Senior United States
Senator Drops In

SO DOES EX-SENATOR

Rumor Says They are Both
Candidates for the Senatorial
Toga.

This was a great week for this city, in so far as "big bugs" were concerned. First there came the Director of the Geological Survey, then the Secretary of the Interior, then ex-United States Senator Mulkey and State Senator Beach and then Senator Fulton. Of course, there was no ulterior motive in the visit of all of these gentlemen—simply here in the interest of the dear people.

The appearance of Senators Mulkey and Fulton is the first gun in the campaign for United States Senator. Next spring these gentlemen will probably be candidates for the Senatorial toga and try their luck with the direct primary. When Mulkey asked for the short term last year everyone wondered what he wanted it for, but his evident intention to try for Senator Fulton's shoes answers the question. Whether there are going to be any other candidates or not is problematical. Several names have been mentioned, among whom are Calk of Portland, "Hood River" Smith and many others, but it would seem from the manner in which the cards are being stacked that it will resolve itself into a fight between the present incumbent, Fulton, and Mulkey.

Senator Mulkey did not remain long in this city but did the hot-foot for Lake County. Senator Fulton tarried longer and had a consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Director Newell.

Saturday night he delivered an impromptu address in the court house park. At the hour scheduled for the address a reception to the Secretary of the Interior was in progress at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Nafziger, just across the street, and it has been suggested that it was sort of an "opposition" performance, but this is emphatically denied by the Senator. He stated that he had no knowledge of the affair until invited to deliver the address. It would seem that the relations between the Senator and the Secretary were of the most amicable kind, although the former failed to attend the reception and pay his respects. Whether this was a studied performance or not is not known.

At the meeting the Senator spoke for about twenty minutes. He expressed his appreciation of the honor accorded him and stated that he had a warm spot in his heart for the Klamath Project and was always ready to render it any service in his power. He stated that he had been informed by the Secretary of the Interior that the people here could secure the figures relative to the cost of force account. That while he believed the Service was doing all in its power to further the interests of the people here and that force account was the best thing possible at this time, he had not changed his mind on the fact that he still believed contract work to be cheaper than force account. At the conclusion of his remarks he asked if there were any questions anyone desired to ask, but everyone seemed to be satisfied and gave the Senator a warm greeting.

Monday morning, in company with Judge Benson, the Senator went to Lakeview where he will look after some private business that has been demanding his attention for some time. He will return here the latter part of this, or early next week, when he will be tendered a reception by the Inland Empire Club.

Around Crater Lake

The first party to navigate Crater Lake in a gasoline launch made the trip around the lake last Sunday. In the party were R. T. Baldwin, Mr. Steel and Mr. Whitney's son. Three hours were consumed in making the trip. Several small caves were found, and in one of these the launch will be left during the winter. Mr. Baldwin states that the trip is one of the most delightful that can be imagined.