

## CHEWAUCAN BASIN BECOMES A COURT PRIZE

The Fight Will Be Four-Cornered,  
and the Oregon State Land  
Board Is Involved

Charles M. Sain, staff correspondent of the Portland Journal, writes the following interesting letter from Paisley:

With the seeming certainty that Jim Hill intends to build a railroad into Central Oregon, there has been precipitated a contest for the possession of 12,000 acres of land in the Chewaucan basin that may rival the famous case in Warner valley between the settlers and the swamp company.

It is a four-cornered fight, and the parties involved are the Portland Irrigation company, the Oregon state land board, certain residents of Lake county and J. B. Haggin's Chewaucan Land and Cattle company. And if the matter goes into the courts, which seems inevitable, it may reflect upon the administrations of Governor Chamberlain and President Roosevelt.

The immediate incentive for writing this account is the report in the Salem papers that the Portland Irrigation company through its president, C. K. Ball, and Attorney Sawyer had made application to the land for a fourth extension of time within which to begin the construction of irrigation works for the Chewaucan Carey act project.

The reasons given in the report by the Portland Irrigation company for asking the extension of time were "to settle the rights of that company and the Chewaucan Land and Cattle company of California. The California company has purchased several thousand acres of land in this district, and now claims the right for the whole flow of the Chewaucan river to water its stock and irrigate its lands."

This information is indefinite and unsatisfactory. Haggin has owned the 12,000 acres of the Chewaucan marsh for many years. It was purchased in the early days under the swamp act for \$1 an acre, and along with the Syean and Silver lake marshes is a part of the range. Instead of claiming all the flow of the Chewaucan river, Haggin has for years been spending thousands of dollars digging drain ditches to get rid of the surplus. This excess water from the marsh lands equals each year the evaporation from 40,000 acres of Lake Albert. Instead of being an injury to the marsh the Portland reservoir would be a benefit. However, we know that the wolf killed the sheep for muddying the water in the stream, although the intake of the ram was below that of his enemy. There may be something else back of this alleged claim.

This 12,000 acres is destined in time to prove very valuable. It was at one time covered with water 200 feet deep when the Chewaucan basin was one big body of water, 75 miles long. It is fine, sagebrush soil for wheat and alfalfa, and a railroad

through the valley would cut it in the middle.

C. H. Ball, while passing through the country as a postoffice inspector, was attracted by this fine body of land, and as early as 1902 laid plans for its reclamation. It was not, however, till February, 1907, that Governor Chamberlain, as head of the land board, signed the contract with the Portland Irrigation company. September 11 of that year the contract was approved by President Roosevelt, and the company was to begin work within six months from that date.

As stated, the fourth extension of time is being asked for. Three extensions have been made, each for six months. The third was on the ground that the United States government had not approved the right of way for the distributing canal across the Fremont forest reserve. This approval was given last June. The other extensions were granted upon trivial pretenses.

We all know that the reason why the work has not been commenced is the lack of capital to build the works. Ball himself is not a moneyed man, but he has made an earnest endeavor to enlist capital in the enterprise, and has spent a considerable sum in surveys and in promotion. The question is can this capital be secured before the advent of a railroad? Will an irrigation project at the cost of this, 120 miles from a railroad, prove to be ample security for the issuance of bonds?

Let us look at the matter calmly and study the rights of the respective parties to the controversy. The estimated cost of the works, approved by State Engineer Lewis, is in round numbers \$240,000. The settler is to pay \$35 an acre for his water right, with 6 per cent interest on deferred payments. This would bring in \$240,000, the theoretical profit being \$180,000.

This looks nice enough on paper, but what are the results here in actual practice? The way to measure such matters is to take the experience of other farmers.

William Harvey leased one of the first tranches on Sunnier lake in 1877. He did very wealthy, but made his money in sheep. Gilbert J. Woodward came out from Iowa and took a lease on the estate at a cash rental of \$1,200 per annum for 1,500 acres. He had barns and houses, peaches in the orchard and strawberries in the garden. But the only thing he could market was hay. After paying rent for two years he has thrown up his lease because there was no profit in it.

He had ample water, and was paying less than \$1 an acre rent. It is true that much of the ranch is sagebrush, but it is as fine land as there is in the valley, and only four miles west of the Carey act project.

The Carey act farmer cannot have as good a layout as had Woodward. In the first place it is all sagebrush, and will cost \$5 an acre to clear the land. Another \$5 must go into

fences, and still another \$5 into buildings. Even then he is not ready to cut hay, which is the only possible product he can market without a railroad, and the land stands him \$50 an acre.

The farmer's fixed charges are \$2.19 interest, \$3.50 to the sinking fund and 50 cents annual maintenance fee, \$6.19 before he can think of buying clothes for his family or bring home a sack of sugar that has been enhanced by a \$60 a ton freight charge.

If Woodward, with all the appurtenances of a well appointed farm, could not stand a rent of less than \$1 an acre, how is the Carey act farmer to make both ends meet and pay out \$6.19?

This is why business men estimate that hay land is not worth more than \$10 an acre, and that if land is more valuable it is not profitable to run stock on it. The Heryford ranch of 40,000 acres, improved, sold to the Oregon Valley Land company for \$12.50 per acre.

But with the coming of the Hill railroad all this is changed. The Carey act farmer will then grow wheat and apples.

Two or three petitions, numerous signed by residents of Lake county, have been sent into the state board as a protest against granting Ball further extensions of time. These adverse claims were brought to the attention of the general government and last spring a special agent of the interior department came out and took much testimony, including an affidavit from the writer.

These protestants allege that the land in dispute is not desert. It is said that many of them are stockmen who want free range and to keep out settlers. The fact is that on all sides of this Carey act segregation homesteads have been taken up and on none of the land do they grow crops without irrigation.

It is alleged on the part of the petitioners that the cost of reclamation is too great, yet they have no part of the cost to pay, and the land under the terms of the project has been applied for several times over.

But what the petitioners want is to have the land thrown open for free homesteads and then have the government inaugurate a larger project under the reclamation act. In view of the matter there is much merit, and the government at one time took such a step and segregated 125,000 acres. The mistake was in abandoning the project, or Oregon erred in not having representatives at Washington with influence enough to get the state's due share of the reclamation fund.

W. H. Weeden of the Klamath stables returned Friday from Ashland, where he has been visiting his parents for the past week. Mrs. Weeden, whose parents also reside in Ashland, where she has been for a month past, returned with her husband. While away they visited Medford and other parts of the Rogue river country.

## PAYETTE-BOISE PEOPLE ARE WELL PLEASED

The October number of the Pacific Monthly contains the following item, indicative of the feeling of peace and good will that is prevalent throughout the Payette-Boise project:

That government irrigation has increased their population 300 per cent in the past five years and their land values from 300 to 500 per cent in the same length of time, is the declaration of recent resolutions adopted by the Payette-Boise Water Users' association. The resolutions go on to recite the fact that the sum of \$3,000,000 has already been expended by the government in the Payette-Boise project, and provision made for the expenditure of an additional \$7,000,000, and that the work of the government has "made them prosperous beyond all expectations." The resolutions also touch on a larger fact when they declare that "the development of the resources of the State of Idaho to this extent has been made possible only by the application of the reclamation act in our state. The feasibility of our irrigation projects being first demonstrated by the reclamation service has given confidence to Eastern investors in irrigation securities in the State of Idaho, and has given great impetus to irrigation investments within the state." Making a more definite application, the resolutions add that "we have the fullest confidence in the virtue of the law and in the officials who have directed and carried on the work in our midst, and we believe that when the things are fully accomplished that have been planned and initiated, the reclamation act will be recognized as one of the greatest benefits known to civilization."

While Senators Bourne and Chamberlain felt that it would be more difficult than ever to get big slices of "pork out of the barrel" in the future because of the inevitable "economic era" which was dawning in congress, they both openly and emphatically pledged their unwavering support to these projects to the following extent, which meet the needs of the state as the Chamber of Commerce members see them: \$15,000,000 for forty feet of water at the mouth of the river and a thirty-foot channel from Portland to the sea; \$3,700,000 for the completion of the Cello canal; \$2,700,500 for the improvement of Coos bay and \$456,000 for the free canal and locks at Oregon City. Out of the \$456,000 for the latter project the state of Oregon has already authorized an appropriation of \$200,000, leaving only \$156,000 to be furnished by the government. No freer or franker expression of opinion, often to the point of personalities, has ever been exchanged by Portland business men and their servants in congress than took place at this conference.

## WEALTHY RANCHER BUYS FARM

No Country Like This, Wheat Man  
From North Dakota Thinks

E. E. Wolf, who recently arrived in town from Strain, N. D., where he owns 1,500 acres of wheat land, Thursday bought 160 acres in what is known as the Gault ranch, four miles from the city. He paid \$4,160 for the property, and says he considers the price very low considering the quality of the land. Mr. Wolf has traveled 3,000 miles through Montana, Washington, Idaho and Oregon, and says that he has never seen a country that impressed him as favorably as this does.

Thursday he drove around through the country and examined the wheat on various ranches and Mr. Wolf said that in quality and yield it compared favorably with North Dakota, which is ranked among the best.

On Saturday Mr. Wolf left for Lakeview on his way home, where he will close up his affairs. He intends to return and invest in city property here and become a permanent resident.

The Home Realty company sold the ranch to Mr. Wolf.

Walter Kittredge of Silver Lake was in town Saturday.

## BUSINESS MEN AND SENATORS

Important Conference at Which Plans  
Are Laid for a Harmonious  
Working Basis.

The most important conference ever held between the congressional delegation of this state and the commercial interests of Portland discussed the needs of Oregon for two hours in the assembly room of the Chamber of Commerce. Senators Bourne and Chamberlain were present as were about fifteen of the biggest business men of Portland, and when the session was over the Congressional delegation had pledged itself to strain every effort to secure more and bigger appropriations for Oregon than have ever been granted by congress heretofore.

Among the big projects that were taken up and intrusted to the vigilance of the two senators were the improvement of the mouth of the Columbia and the channel from Portland to the sea; the free canal and locks at Oregon City; the Cello canal and the improvement of Coos bay.

While Senators Bourne and Chamberlain felt that it would be more difficult than ever to get big slices of "pork out of the barrel" in the future because of the inevitable "economic era" which was dawning in congress, they both openly and emphatically pledged their unwavering support to these projects to the following extent, which meet the needs of the state as the Chamber of Commerce members see them: \$15,000,000 for forty feet of water at the mouth of the river and a thirty-foot channel from Portland to the sea; \$3,700,000 for the completion of the Cello canal; \$2,700,500 for the improvement of Coos bay and \$456,000 for the free canal and locks at Oregon City. Out of the \$456,000 for the latter project the state of Oregon has already authorized an appropriation of \$200,000, leaving only \$156,000 to be furnished by the government. No freer or franker expression of opinion, often to the point of personalities, has ever been exchanged by Portland business men and their servants in congress than took place at this conference.

The business men asked the senators what they were doing for Oregon in Washington, and what stand they would take in the future on definite projects in which the interests of the entire state were involved. The senators, with equal unrestraint, informed the Chamber of Commerce trustees that the latter have not supplied the congressional delegation with the specific data required in a great many instances, and that the delegation was continuously hampered because of this neglect on the part of the local commercial interests. The senators insisted that in the future all communications from official sources be forwarded to Washington in quadruplicate—a copy to each of the senators and to each of the representatives so that the delegation could act on all these propositions as a unit.

Incidents were repeatedly noted

IT RAISES THE DOUGH

# CRESCENT

EGG-PHOSPHATE

## BAKING POWDER

and does more than the higher price powders and does it better.

ONE POUND 25 CENTS  
SOLD BY GROCERS

where the congressmen were at the mercy of committees because they lacked detailed, accurate, complete and official data of subjects involving appropriations for local projects. The senators were informed that in the future they would be bountifully supplied with all the data needed.

H. W. Keese is in receipt of a notice from the register of the Lakeview land office, advising him that the contest inaugurated by H. E. Wilson against the entry of H. J. Winters for the homestead in the SW 1/4 of section 32, township 40 south, range 12 east, has been decided in favor of Mr. Wilson, final decision in the matter having been rendered by the secretary of the interior.

## WALL-WOOD

W. H. Wall, the contractor of Keno, and Miss Nellie Wood of Langell valley, were married Thursday evening at 7 o'clock at the Masten house. Dr. G. H. Feese of Grace M. E. church officiated.

## NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Lakeview, Oregon, August 13, 1909.

NOTICE is hereby given that John C. Beach, whose postoffice address is Klamath Falls, Oregon, did, on the 16th day of March, 1909, file in this office Sworn Statement and Application No. 01703, to purchase the SENW 1/4, NESW 1/4, NWSE 1/4 Section 5, Township 38 South, Range 9 East, Willamette meridian, and the timber thereon, under the provisions of the act of June 3, 1878, and acts amendatory, known as the "Timber and Stone Law," at such value as might be fixed by appraisement, and that, pursuant to such application, the land and timber thereon have been appraised, June 14, 1909, the timber estimated 225 M. board feet at \$1.50 per M. and the land \$24.50; that said applicant will offer final proof in support of his application and sworn statement on the 22d day of October, 1909, before R. M. Richardson, U. S. Commissioner, at Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Any person is at liberty to protest this purchase before entry, or initiate a contest at any time before patent issues, by filing a corroborated affidavit in this office, alleging facts which would defeat the entry.

ARTHUR W. ORTON,  
8-19 10-21 Register.

## I HAVE BUYERS

For Klamath county lands. Send me description, terms and price, and I will sell it for you. Ramsey Realty Co., 217-218 Central bldg., cor. 6 and 8 Main st., Los Angeles, Cal.



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To see our new Fall Clothing at \$12.50 and \$15. Our New York buyer has just purchased an elegant lot of clothing and shipped it out by express. These suits are all-wool and are worth from \$15 to \$17.50, but to make a quick sale of them and to become better acquainted with you we have priced them at \$12.50 and \$15. To appreciate the value of these suits it is necessary for you to examine them closely and try them on to see the fit :: :: :: :: :: Complete line of new styles in Nettleton Shoes

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