STOCKHOLDERS SUBMIT ANSWERS TO SENATE IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

Reports Contrasted of Board of Directors, and Report of Stockholders to Be Submitted Over Signature of the Individual

Land Owners

There has been a feeling ever since the public conference was held in Klamath Falls, November 9, that the answers submitted to the questions of the Senate Committee on Irrigation were unfortunately not representative of the sentiment of the land owners, and that in some respects they were entirely misleading. This impelled business men of Klamath County and land owners who, as water users, are vitally concerned, to frame the answers now to be offered for signature of the individual members of the Water Users' Association. In order to admit of easy comparison the two reports, together with the letters of transmittal accompanying each, are herewith published in parallel colmuns.

Mr. Water User and Land Owner, which of these reports do you consider most worthy of your approval, and which conveys the true impression of the Klamath Falls Irrigation Project?

Question I. Is the existing reclamation law satisfactory, and if not, in what respect should it be amended?

Ans. 1. If fairly interpreted the

Ans. 1. The existing Reclamation present law is satisfactory. If we Law is quite satisfactory. So many understand Sec. 4 of the Reclamation projects having been undertaken as Act the estimated cost of construc- to make progress construction slow tion should be announced and con- and therefore unsatisfactory to setsidered an official announcement tlers; while this may not be obwhen the Secretary deems a project jectionable as applied to Government practical. And no private lands land it works differently with land should be asked to subscribe for in private ownership; persons owning stock until given a definite price per more than 160 acres of irrigable land acre for irrigation. As we under- in the Klamath Project are required stand Sec. 6 of the said act the esti- by the law to sail the excess land. they adequate and satisfactory? mated cost mentioned in Sec. 4 should This has been complied with to a include operation and maintenance large extent and it is an injustice to and it should not be separated as is keep the settlers who have purchased done by the U. S. R. S. into two excess lands waiting an indefinite pecharges and the cost deterred until riod to ma'e such lands remuneracompletion of project, because the tive. We are informed, however, act distinctly says in Sec. 4 "the charges shall be determined with a this is acknowledged by the present view of returning to the Reclamation administration to have been a mis-Fund the estimated cost of construc- take., and that no new projects will be started until those now under construction are completed.

Question 2. Are your local laws governing the appropriation and use of water for irrigation satisfactory in their application to lands being reprivate enterprise, and if not, claimed by the government, or through what amendments are required?

fairly satisfactory.

Ans. 2. As fas as ascertainable at | Ans. 2. Local laws are satisfacthe present time the local laws are tory, some new acts having been pased since the project was started to meet the requirements of the Reclamation Service.

Question 3. Is the administration of the law by the Reclamation Service satisfactory, and if not, what are the objections and what remedy is proposed?

As to the first clause, we the cost would not be less than \$30 ownership largely. an acre. And it is now urged, that shareholders will be compelled to pay this added 50 per cent. This seems unjust, and we solemnly protest against it. As one remedy to meet unsatisfactory conditions, we affirm that Oregon has not had its just apportionment of the funds. this were given her the project might be completed at an early date. Also, because the shareholders for four vears have been at an expense for keeping up the Water Users' Association, without results to us. As a remedy complete the project as soon as possible. We ask your committee to investigate all the reasons for the increase of the estimated cost of the project, and we further ask that the officials of the Water Users' Association be placed in direct communication with the Secretary of the In-

Ans. 3. The administration of the answer NO. Our objections, in the law is as satisfactory as usual with main, are these: It has often been any government work on account o unsatisfactory and unfair, as the red tape, etc. In our opinion more facts will show. When the first survey was made, and land holders were ject Engineer within certain prescrib urged to sign up their lands, officials ed limits to enable prompt dealing stated publicly that their estimates with minor local problems, and also showed a cost of \$18.60 per acre; would recommend adoption of a sys age cost would not exceed \$20 an people of the project to be advised acre, and it was with this under- of developments and progress a standing that we signed up our lands. more frequent intervals than is now Some years later other estimates were possible, this being especially desirmade, when it was announced that able where land is held in private

Question 4. Is your water supply adequate for both irrigation and domestic uses?

As. 4. The water supply is ade-nate. The U. S. R. S. does not sup-both purposes. ply water for domestic purposes. It is desired in this project continuously for domestic use from the first of April to freezing time, or about Janu-

Question 6. Is your canal and distributing system satisfactory, and if not, what are the defects, what caused them, and what remedy is pro-Ans. 6. Canal and distributing Ans. 6. It is not. PRIME CAUSE-

inefficient service on part of Recla- system generally satisfactory; some mation officials, business and execu- complaint because of leakage, due to tive ability of present project engi- banks being new and unsettled. In neer satisfactory; PRIME REME- the opinion of practical irrigationists of projects; more power to be given better adapted for irrigation purposes to the men in charge of the project if made wider and not so deep, thereand less in the hands of Supervising by lessening leakage and danger of Engineer. DEFECTS-Poor construc- breaks and making it easier to maintion and always behind time. REM- tain turnout and gates for placing EDY-Practical man in charge of the various construction and engineering work-NOT BOYS-but men with some practical knowledge of irrigation and farming.

Question 7. Can the cost of maintaining and operating the canal and distributing system be reduced, and if so, in what way and to what extent? Ans. 7. Yes, by hastening comple-

possible with a small percentage of it.

water upon the land.

Ans. 7. Owing to poor construction the cost of operation and mainte- tion of the entire system thereby ennance is very high and can not be abling the maintenance and operation made lower without large expense in department to deal with the whole enlarging and strengthening main ca- project more economically than is nal and laterals-banks are too low and narrow-boxes too high-checks and boxes located in wrong places Reduce force after irrigation season is over instead of keeping them all on the pay roll as seems to have been done in the Klamath Project.

Question 8. Can the water users, by employing reasonable industry \$30 per M. Ans. 8. A man with small means | Ans. 8. Results attained by varican not come into the Klamath Pro- ous farmers, affidavits of which are ject, purchase land partly on time, hereto appended, prove that it is enmake improvements, and live and pay tirely practicable and is actually be-

and economy, promptly make all payments required by the existing law? the water charges. This explains ing accomplished. See "Exhibit A." ing up with farmers, and largely why the excess lands can not be sold at prices now asked. A large part of land owners would not be able to meet the payments, that is at \$3 per annum and \$0.75 maintenance per acre according to the present law. By deferring the first two or three payments farmers might possibly be able to pay out on the water charge.

imposed on those who default in payment? ?

Ans. 9. Graduated payments or an i extension of time to twenty years, faulting in payment one year from allowing the first year of free water date of default in which to reinstate or at a nominal fee

Would grant persons dedate of default in which to reinstate paying interest at the rate of six per from the use of said land. cent from the date payment in defau't first became due to date of pay-

Question 10. What are your principal crops, where do you market them, and what, if any, organized effort is being made to put your crops into the market under the most favorable conditions?

Ans. 10. Alfalfa and grain. Home. consumption.

Ans. 10. Principal crops, cattle, horses, mules, sheep, hogs, hay, wheat, barley, oats and rye, dairy products, potatoes, celery and other vegetables. Live stock is marketed in San Francisco, Sacramento, Portfed to live stock on the ranches. School Fund. Grain so far has been chiefly used for local consumption. Railroad com-pleted to Klamath Falls last June and considerable shipments of wheat have been made to California mills this season

Klamath grain is extra high grade, winning first prizes for wheat, oats and barley at National Irrigation Congress at Sacramento and first prize Show, Omaha, over all competitors, ample the Engineers estimated the wait and extra cost. and the various grains taking high cost of the project at \$18.60 per acre rank at the Dry Farming Congress at and finally raised it to \$30 per acre Billings, Montana.

Question 11. What are your present transportation facilities, and are

Ans. 11. Branch line of the S. P.

Ans. 11. On Southern Pacific line Ry. Co., and it is not satisfactory at now building from Klamath Falls to present, shipping rate 50 per cent too Natron, Oregon, and when completed high, but we hope to have better will place Klamath Falls on main line shipping facilities and markets in the between San Francisco and Portland. The line between Weed, California, and Klamath Falls was completed during 1909 and the connection to project. As the local officials of the the North will be completed probably within two years; service adequate; freight and pasenger rates are too high, adjustment will doubtless get any redress; soon take place by application of Interstate tariffs.

Question 12. What is the reasonable present average value per acre date. of land in your project, exclusive of water right, the value being computed on the basis of productive capacity, interest being computed at 6 per cent per annum; and what was the value thereof exclusive of water right, prior of costs for drainage of same and be to the construction of the Reclamation works?

Ans. 12. Land now under ditch | Ans. 12. Reasonable present aver-\$50 at present and prior to coming age value of improved, cultivated the U. S. R. S. to survey a very low of the Reclamation Service. Prices land in project now having water line ditch near the Clear Lake site, not affected by the Government irri- right, \$60 per acre; before constructo avoid going through rocks, and

Cereals Kind	Amount Per Acre	Profit	Land at 6 Per Ct
Rye	12 bu	3 bu or \$1.6	8 \$28.00
Wheat	15 bu	3 1/2 bu or 2.1	0 35.00
Oats	25 bu	5 % bu or 2.0	0 33.33

ing of Government.

tion of Reclamation works \$20 per then put in pumping plants at various acre. Improved cultivated land not places to raise the water to the land having water, same basis, \$25 per acre; before project was adopted and altogether cheaper, will add greative construction commenced \$15 per acre. to the maintenance cost, and as cut Unimproved, uncultivated, raw estimates were made on the basis of land, not having water \$20 per acre; the high line ditch, we would object before project was adopted \$7.50 per to same. Based upon productive capacity and 6 per cent capitalization: Alfalfa hay, 4 tons per acre, \$24.00 of same. worth \$6 per ton. Less expense for water irirgating, putting up and feeding out, \$3.50 per ton.....

Profit, 6 per cent on value per Less cost of water right ... Value of land per acre \$135.00 of the United States Reclamation Irrigated Grain Land, computed on Service. We ask that all commis-Ru Value Per Acre. \$18.00 15 Wheat 21.60 10.80 Barley .40 22.50 11.30 \$43.35 (Sgd) \$84.70 Totals per acre Average profit \$10.35, or va. pr. acre at \$170.00 per cent Less cost of water right. 30.00

Per Acre. Value. Crop. \$14.40 Wheat 15 13.50 Oats 25 14.06 Barley Totals \$55.46

\$140.00

Per Acre Val. of Land.

Average per acre..\$13.86 Average profit per acre \$5.11 or value per acre . For individual examples as to actual buying and selling values and crop production see "Exhibit B" at-

tached hereto. Question 13. Are non-irrigable public lands available for pasture contiguous to or in the vicinity of your project, and if so, to what extent and DY-Good business men at the head canals and laterals would have been under what conditions are the same now available for the stock owned by

water users? Ans. 13. Yes.

Ans. 13. Yes, free to everybody.

Question 14. What suggestions have you to offer for legislation to make public pasture lands in the vicinity of your project available for the use of those cultivating the irrigated lands?

Ans. 14. We favor the placing of all adjacent non-tillable lands into a factory. reserve for the exclusive use of the settlers for grazing purposes.

Ans. 14. Present conditions satis-

Question 15. Is the farm unit of your project, as established by the Secretary of the Interior, satisfactory, and if not, would the objection be removed by the addition of pasturage rights as suggested by the foregoing

Ans. 15. Yes, we should have the | Ans. 15. Entirely satisfactory. pasturage rights as suggested above. The unit rule should be enforced without question.

Question 16. What is your source of supply for fuel and building pincott, Supervising Engineer, and T. lish the fact that the said dam site

materials, and the average cost thereof? Ans. 16. Timber on government or state land. Lumber at \$12 to private ownership and available in

Ans. 16. Plenty of timber held in forest reserves; prices of lumber from supply of wood for fuel on hills adjacent to irrigated lands, chiefly on the labor necessary.

Question 9. What additional terms and conditions, if any, should be operations by information acquired from the work of agricultural experineers of the Reclamation Service, pre-

ment stations and demonstration farms established on the irrigation projects?

Ans. 17. None. Experiment stawas for unavoidable cause (failure to pert's Report upon the soid of the receive water because of breaks or project denied. Lands for experiother causes, crop failure, storms or mental purposes given to the Governdamaging weather conditions) by ment free of charge with no results

tion so far has accomplished nothing. started in Klamath Project until the their rights, providing such default Frequent application for Soil Ex- season of 1909, too late for seeding and the work of the year devoted to preparation of ground. There is no local experiment station but considerable valuable work has been done for individual settlers by the Cor-vallis station. At the solicitation of the citizens and commercial organizations a soil survey of the Klamath Project was ordered by the Department of Agriculture in 1908, and the work partially completed, but maps have not yet been issued covering the field work done; a comprehensive soil survey would doubtless prove of great value to the settlers. What are your school facilities, and how are school

Question 18.

funds provided? Ans. 18. Good. Provided by gen-

Ans. 18. Good public school sysland, Tacoma and Seattle. Hay is eral taxation and the Irreducible tem, supported by general taxation and interest from State Irreducible School Fund.

> Question 19. Now, in your opinion, can Congress best promote the general welfare of the water users and carry out the purposes of the Reclamation Act?

Ans. 19. (a) Enforce unit rule; (c) Extend payment to twenty

years, or graduated payments; (d) Interpret act as per our answer Private capital would have irrigated

it for \$15. (c) Have Water Applications to comply with acreage and original survey made by the government to avoid confusion in acreage;

f) We desire to have a special agent appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to visit the projects at least once a year to investigate existing local conditions relative to each Klamath Project bave in many in stances acted unfair towards the land owners and we have been unable to

(g) We desire an itemized state ment of the expenditures of the Klamath Project from inception to

(h) Reclaimed lakes and swamp lands should all pay their proportion considered a part of the whole project;

(i) Furthermore, it is proposed by under the preliminary survey, which

(j) The erection of wooden flumes and bridges as they have been made under the first unit of this project will add greatly to the maintenance

(k) The method of forwarding money to the General Land Office, 14.00 which in this project is Lake View. is cumbersome and expensive. This \$10.00 could be avoided by having the money paid into the United States Deposi-\$165.00 tory within the limith of this project . 30.00 or into the Water Users' Association, or directly to the Disbursing Agent sions be dispensed with and that Sec. Expense 5 of the Reclamation Act of June 17 Per Acre. 190p, be amended so as to comply \$10.00 with the conditions mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted. BOARD OF DIRECTORS KLAM-ATH WATER USERS' ASS'N.

ALBERT E. ELDER, Copy. Secretary

Ans. 19. We would ask Congress (b) Remove resident restrictions; to provide funds for the immediate completion of all projects and have the Reclamation Service proceed with the work as speedily as possible for blue stem wheat at National Corn to the first question; as for an ex- thereby relieving the settlers of long

LETTER OF WATER USERS

In submitting the foregoing an-Dry Land, computed on 6 per cent swers to your committee the Board of Directors of the Klamath Water Per Acre. Users' Association desire to call your \$ 8.00 attention to a few of the facts which 9.00 ask that you consider the same in diately the engineers commenced the 9.00 connection with the answers above Reclamation Project.

referred to. The Klamath Basin under what is \$ 8.75 known as the first unit at the time feel were two or three times the value the United States Reclamation Engi- of the rights purchased, and certain neers were endeavoring to secure the concessions given which the Board land for the purpose of putting in a of Directors is unable to find authorsytem under the Reclamation law, ized by the Reclamation Act. For had, at that time, private irrigating instance, S. C. & R. S. Moore in consystems which irrigated approximately 15,00 bacres, and which could River, (which affidavits in our poshave been enlarged so as to irri- session show were valued at approxigate approximately the 30,000 acres, mately \$15,000), were given between which are included under the first nine and eleven hundred perpetual unit of the Klamath Project and for horse-power delivered at about a mile which water may be had by making further down the river than the loapplication to the Reclamation Serv- cation of their former rights. ice. At the same time a private com- fail to find any provision in the Repany was in the field and had under- clamation Act whereby anybody can. taken construction of an irrigating get perpetulal rights for power. system which would cover many thousand acres, and their contracts were given for \$15 an acre. At the pres-rights under what is known as the first unit, will cover something like ent time the applications for water land and here too, we fail to find 16,000, and apparently no more land is placed under irrigation than we whereby the Secretary of the Interior formerly had under our old system of or any of his subordinates are auprivate irrigation. In order to induce thorized to allow anybody or give the settlers of the Klamath Project anybody a water right for more than to take up the irrigation under the Reclamation Act, Mr. R. H. Newell, the Clear Lake dam site was made at then Chief Engineer, now Director of H. Humphreys at that time termed Project Engineer, held public meet-ing in this county, and after what to get a five per cent commisthey termed an extensive survey, an-nounced to the people that reclama-purchase of the so-called Adams \$12 to \$36 per thousand; abundant nounced to the people that reclamation of the lands under the Government system would not cost less than Ditch Co., purchase was made for \$10 nor more than \$20 per acre, and \$100,000. The Adams ditch irrigatthe public domain and principally ju- \$10 nor more than \$20 per acre, and niper. Settlers have been in the hab- induced our settlers to sign up con- ed practically 10,000 acres of land, it of procuring fence posts and fuel tracts to the Water Users' Association which would mean \$10 per acre—a from these juniper trees on Govern- on those representations, and feeling ment land but recently agents of the Interior Department have exacted payments for such fuel and posts from various settlers at exorbitant prices. We deem this unjust practice get water at the less price, agreed additional expense has been send would set for each rulings as to pay more, that is, not less than the less price additional expense has been made in supplying water to the and would ask for such rulings as to pay more, that is, not less than would enable the settlers to obtain \$10 nor more than \$20, and thereby would enable the settlers to obtain \$10 nor more than \$20, and thereby land under the Adams ditch. The fuel and posts free of cost, except authorized the Reclamation Service land owners were offered water to begin the reclamation of land under the Klamath Project. According

liminary surveys were made and apparently from these surveys estimates were made which were given out by Mr. Newell, etc., and were not less than \$10 nor more than \$30 per With this understanding the acre. Water Users' Association was organized under the direction of the Reclamation officials and the capitalization of stock fixed at \$20, and imme

In doing this certain purchases were made at prices which the people cideration of certain rights on Link Again negotiating for the so-called

Ankeny ditch, the Reclamation officials give to Mr. Ankeny and Mrs. Henley, owners of said ditch, a perpetual water right for 1799 acres of any provision in the Reclamation Act 160 acres of land. The purchase of a price of \$187,000, and we have afwas placed in a man's hands for sale ditch, known as the Little Klamath very reasonable sum, and this board made in supplying water to the rights under the Adams ditch for \$10

Continued on Seventh Pago