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## SEC. LANE RECEIVES SUGGESTIONS

NO REFERENCE IS MADE TO DISMISSALS

Among the Matters Asked for Are the Appointment of Water Users as Fiscal Agents on the Projects, Access to Maps, Books and Plans, Suspension of Payments in First Years and Time Extension

WASHINGTON, May 20.—In response to the request of Secretary of Interior Lane, the representatives of 18 water users' associations and the Land Owners' Protective league of the Salt River valley have submitted to him some suggestions for changes in the administration of the reclamation service. The most noteworthy point in these suggestions was the omission of any reference to the dismissal of any officers or employes of the reclamation service.

The "users" ask that they be consulted on about everything pertaining to the project—construction and administration. Among these are the appointment of the users' associations as fiscal agents, the submission of contracts for the sale of power and excess water, and the rates thereof; also control and management of projects as soon as possible, and meanwhile the access to all documents and records and maps and books in the local offices of the reclamation service; also suspension of payments to permit settlers to clear, level and cultivate their lands; also that land entries under the act should not be subject to reduction after bona fide entry. Lastly, extension of the time of payments up to a limit of 25 years.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—"We expect to pay, and we are willing to repay, to the government every dollar it has expended in constructing our project," said Abel Ady, representing Klamath Water Users' association, at the conclusion of his hearing Saturday before Secretary Lane, but he qualified his statement by adding that settlers would refuse to pay more than the original estimated cost unless the government produced figures showing how it had spent its money at Klamath.

For two hours Mr. Ady delivered a theatrical address to Secretary Lane, making numerous complaints against the reclamation service, especially general officials at Washington, all of whom, he said, should be removed from office. He believed that all projects should be controlled directly by engineers on the ground.

Secretary Lane approved the present system of maintaining division headquarters, in the interest of good service, and said that E. G. Hopson, supervising engineer in charge at Portland, was one of the most capable men in the service, and was a valuable asset to the government.

In course of his statement to Secretary Lane, Mr. Ady declared the government was morally obligated to go ahead and build the Klamath project according to the original plans. He condemned the prices at which the government had taken over Ankeny and Adams canal, and other private properties, and in answer to this charge, Ady's testimony before the senate committee was read, showing that at that time he expressed satisfaction with the prices paid. The old charge regarding the power rights of Moore Bros. was gone into, and incidentally Ady's charge that the government had there given away val-

uable rights, it was declared that at the expenditure of \$100,000 the government had acquired or created power rights and possibilities of its own worth at Ady's own figures \$1,000,000.

When Ady charged general extravagance on the part of the reclamation management, excessive salaries, etc., Secretary Lane asked if he knew anything about this matter, and Ady confessed ignorance.

Secretary Lane then said the government was employing many good engineers at small salaries, and he explained that the government work was of necessity expensive, because of the requirements of congress. Secretary Lane was considerably interested in the Klamath project because of its unusual features, and will endeavor to bring about harmony between the settlers and the reclamation service.

## SHASTA VIEW CLOSES THE TERM

SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR IS ENJOYED UNDER PROFESSOR ALEXANDER AND MISS EMILY HOUSE

A highly successful term of school was brought to a close at Shasta View district Friday by Bona P. Alexander, principal, and Miss Emily House, primary teacher. A program was given that evening at the school-house.

In addition to the advanced and the primary grades participating, the Shasta View orchestra also assisted, and the evening was a great success. Two splendid comedies were given by the advanced room, while the children of the primary room gave songs and recitations.

The school spirit in that district is excellent. Four applicants for graduation will receive eighth-grade diplomas, they being Mabel Myers, James Otoman, Anton Polivka and Helen Zumpfe.

## TIMBER FIRMS

GET BIG CONTRACT

The final round in the litigation over large tracts of timber land in Klamath and Jackson counties in which the United States, the Oregon & California railroad, and two timber companies were concerned, came to a close today, when there was filed for record a patent from the United States to the Weyerhaeuser Timber company and the Pokegama Sugar Pine Lumber company, deeding the concerns 13,222.95 acres of timber land in the vicinity of Pokegama and Jenny Creek.

The land was sold to the lumber companies by the railroad shortly before the government, in the federal district court, forfeited the railroad's title to the land. To protect the innocent purchasers, congress, last summer, passed a special act, authorizing the general land office to issue a patent to the two companies upon payment of \$2.50 per acre for the land.

The new courthouse will be completed on the new site. Good roads work will not stop. Vote for Frank Ira White, Harmony Candidate for County Judge.  
**RECALL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.** (Pd. Adv.)

## TIME EXTENSION ON PROJECTS

RECLAMATION SERVICE INVESTIGATION IS HELPFUL

Reforms Wanted by Water Users Are to Be Considered by Secretary Lane, and It Is Believed That the Spirit of Co-Operation Will Be More Apparent—More Time for Payments the Biggest Demand.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—Great benefits are expected to result from the series of conferences that have been held between Secretary of Interior Lane and representatives of the water users' associations on the various government irrigation projects of the west. Not alone will the settlers benefit, as a result of these conferences, but the government as well, for the object of the conferences was to find out what is the matter with the administration of the national reclamation law, and what lies back of the numerous complaints that have been heard with ever-increasing volume for the past five or six years.

Though himself a western man, Secretary Lane came into office with only a general knowledge of the government reclamation work. He understands what reclamation is, and how the government law operates, in a general way, but he had not been long in office before he was impressed with the fact that general discontent prevailed on some, at least, of the projects, and more or less complaint and dissatisfaction on all of them.

It occurred to the new secretary that it would be a wise thing, at the beginning of his administration, to find out exactly what is the matter, so that any abuses might be corrected, friction removed, and the work carried on hereafter in a way that would more generally prove satisfactory to the people most interested.

One of the first things demonstrated at the hearings was the necessity, on most projects at least, for an extension of time in which settlers may make payment for their water rights. Under the law, as it now stands, settlers have 10 years to pay up, and it is recreational with the secretary to require 10 equal annual payments, or to graduate payments as the facts may justify.

Both customs are being followed today, and some projects have graduated payments, while others are proceeding on the 10-equal-payment plan.

Experience has demonstrated, what was not generally appreciated when the reclamation law was enacted, that the settler who goes upon new land clears and subdues it, and brings it into successful cultivation, is met with many and untold hardships, hardships even greater, in many ways, than those of the pioneer who settled up those sections of the west that do not require irrigation.

During his first years the receipts from the sale of crops are light, and he has difficulty in maintaining himself and his family unless he has reserve capital upon which to draw. The majority of farmers who have located on government projects have not possessed this necessary capital; hence their hardships.

In the interest of the majority of settlers Secretary Lane will recommend an extension of time, so as to lessen the burden on the poor settler, and give him a better opportunity to get on his feet before requiring him to make substantial payments to the government for his water. It is prob-

able that Secretary Lane will recommend an extension from 10 to 15 years, through Senator Myers, chairman of the irrigation committee, favors 20 years, and Senator Borah of Idaho has proposed 30 years.

Joseph Kent left this morning for Hornbrook for a short visit.

A petition for letters of guardianship was filed Tuesday by W. H. Pankey of Langell valley, father of Grace Beulah Pankey. Horace M. Manning is Pankey's attorney.

John Neubert of Swan Lake valley was in the county seat Tuesday on a business trip.

Mr. Harry Caden, accountant for the reclamation service, has been called to Portland for a short assignment in the office of the supervising engineer, in connection with water supply investigations in Central Oregon.

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