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MALHEUR LOOKED GOOD TO STATE ENGINEER.

More Development Going on Than in
Any Other Portion of the State.

Salem.—State Engineer John H. Lewis, who has returned from a visit to Malheur county where he investigated a number of irrigation projects and looked into the water situation on Willow creek, says there is more development going on in Malheur county than in any other portion of the state. To put it in the vernacular, that county looked good to him.

"Plans for the pumping of water to 27,000 acres along Snake river are well under way," he said. "This tract is apposite Payette, Idaho, on what is known as Dend Ox flat. The district proposes to construct its own power house near the forks of Payette river and transmit power 47 miles for use in Oregon. Both the power and water will thus be made appurtenant to the land. This is deemed necessary as the cost of power at prevailing rates is considered prohibitive for lifts over 100 feet, whereas the average lift for this project is over 200 feet. I am awaiting certain information from the district engineer before making my final report.

"The directors of the Owyhee Irrigation district have hope of financing a 50,000-acre project. A 100-foot dam in the Owyhee river will supply gravity water for 12,000 acres, and furnish power for pumping 38,000 acres, having a maximum lift of 150 feet.

"C. L. Tallmadge of New York has been negotiating with these two districts with the view of the construction of one power plant to supply several districts.

Water is being delivered this season by the Ontario-Nyssa Irrigation Co. for 6200 acres above the Owyhee ditch, having a lift of 101 feet from Snake river; also by the Snow-Moody plant opposite Payette for 7000 acres, with a maximum lift of 104 feet. The success of these two projects has greatly stimulated development by pumping. There is quite a demand for definite information as to what it costs to develop and transmit power.

"In Jordan valley it is expected that the 20-mile feed canal of 100 second feet capacity will be finished by October and that water will be flowing into the Antelope flat reservoir. H. G. Wells, of Maney Bros., contractors, is expected to return within a few days with a grading outfit from Klamath Falls to begin work on the 40-foot dam for the storage of 30,000 acre feet. This is deemed sufficient for the first unit of 10,000 acres. This dam can readily be extended to 80 feet in height for the storage of 127,000 acre feet of water. If the first unit is successful, it is the plan to complete the larger project; also to construct a reservoir on Jordan creek, just over the line in Idaho. Three crops of alfalfa can be produced each year in the lower valley, and the immense area of surrounding range makes this section an ideal stock country.

"Work on the Bully creek project is now actively under way. Foundations are completed for a 130-foot dam and a 150-second foot canal is nearing completion for the reclamation of the first unit of about 6000 acres. This canal will subsequently be enlarged and the Lamberson reservoir above West-fall completed if the water supply and other conditions warrant.

"A study of water right troubles on Willow creek indicates that further legislation must be had to secure satisfactory results in the distribution of water. Ditches and reservoirs are built to consume every drop of water in

Willow creek basin. In addition, water from the adjoining Burnt river Basin is turned over the divide by the Eldorado ditch. This water mingles with Willow creek waters and must be divided to those having regular flow and storage rights. In its passage down the stream, many administrative problems must be met and solved. The seepage losses in transit must be determined. The obstruction of the public stream channel by beaver dams, the growth of brush, etc., causes excessive losses. Most of the ditches are small and scattered along the stream for 60 miles, also on many tributaries. About the center of this district a 125-foot dam, with a storage capacity of 50,000 acre feet intercepts all water.

No telephones are available in the upper districts and the roads are poor. Conditions could hardly be more complicated. If an experienced water master from some other district could have been put in charge, as provided in the bill originally and recommended to the legislature, some of this season's difficulties might have been avoided. Until the people, and the legislature, realize the fact that distributing public waters is as important and as complicated a business as operating a railway system, it will be difficult to attain high efficiency. Water masters must be resident of the district under the existing law and are paid \$100 a month. In some counties expenses are not allowed.

"In Idaho the state's representative in charge of the summer distribution of the Snake river waters is paid \$400 a month and expenses."

OREGON EASTERN NEARING RIVERSIDE

If no serious delays are encountered, the Oregon Eastern line of the O. W. R. & N. company will be completed to Riverside within 90 days. The road is being built from Vale and the distance to Riverside, through the Malheur canyon and valley, is about 80 miles.

General Manager and Vice President J. P. O'Brien, of the O. W. R. & N. company, went over the line about a week ago and inspected the progress of the work, and yesterday he expressed the belief that trains will be in operation between the two points by November if work progresses in accordance with plans.

The line will tap a large body of land that is to be thrown open to settlement this month, land that a few years ago was reserved by the government. Some of this land is mountainous and rough, but there also stretches of considerable area that are splendidly adapted for dry farming.—Portland Journal.

New Land Scrip.

By special act of congress nearly 2000 acres of approved Land Scrip is now available FOR USE ONLY IN OREGON. It is the BEST and CHEAPEST scrip put on the market in several years. WILL GO QUICKLY TO PATENT. Take any land subject to homestead entry. Can furnish in applications from 40 acres up, as long as it lasts. We guarantee validity. THE PRICE WILL ATTRACT YOU. If you need some of it prompt action is necessary. Write or wire us.

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FRUITGROWERS TO MEET AT PAYETTE

For the information of the apple growers and shippers of the Northwest on the subject of cold storage, B. B. Pratt, in charge of the field investigation, in pomology, under the bureau of plant industry of the United States department of agriculture, is conducting a series of meetings under the direction of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors.

The government has been carrying on experiments in apple refrigeration for two years and is now going to give the growers first hand information as to the results of this experimental work and it is for this purpose that Mr. Pratt is holding these meetings.

A meeting will be held at Payette Monday, August 11, in the commercial club rooms of the city hall at 2:00 p. m. An invitation is extended to all growers and it is hoped that a large attendance will greet Mr. Pratt at this meeting.

DAMAGE DONE BY BIG RAIN

Water has been turned into the upper reaches of the big canal that serves the older settled portion of this valley. Repairs have been pushed with a large crew since the storm of wind Friday. Work was started at the upper breaks near Mitchell Butte and a day longer will enable the repair crew to complete the work sufficiently to flow the entire 26 miles of the canal.

Four hundred dollars is the estimated sum required to make the necessary repairs on breaks caused by the flood of water from the hills. Damage aggregating several thousand dollars has been reported to crops, and small stock has been drowned in several instances. Nothing like the rainfall of last week has ever been chronicled in the history of the valley since the first white man discovered the Snake basin. Between the Owyhee and Shoestring canals on the new plowed lands considerable damage by washing is reported and the 25 miles of the Shoestring embankment is cut in numberless places. Though the expense of repairs will not more than equal the older ditch, considerable filling in the ditch channel by soil deposited from the gulches must be removed in addition. Near the Trent ranch several hundred feet have been filled level full with earth.

At the Trent home water stood two feet in depth for some hours and chickens were drowned before they could be rescued. A calf and some pigs were saved by wading out after them and Mr. Trent afterwards discovered symptoms of how excited he was in the fact that he had put on his dry clothing rearside foremost. Bridges in several places on the ditches were washed away and roads were left in bad condition through the valley.

The storm reached the proportions of a waterspout in the section near Adrian, huge boulders as large as claim shanties being washed from the gulches and deposited on the flat lands near the river. A section crew from here armed with drills and dynamite were needed to dispose of one that stopped on the track of the South Side line at the Bend.

Watermelons at Emmett.

The first water melons on the market in Emmett were brought to town Saturday, by Will Tucker, of the slope and they were first-class. Mr. Tucker took a load to Boise the first of the week and had no trouble in disposing of them at a good figure.—Emmett Examiner.

For Sale.

Pure blood White Minorca cockerels, April hatch, \$1.00 each. Best large egg producing strain W. W. Smith, Box 265, Nyssa, Or.—adv. j3-1f

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