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The Journal PRINT SHOP

DISCUSSES STATE AID QUESTION

J. H. Rigby of Vale, in reply to an article in the Oregon Voter denouncing the proposed plan of state guarantee of bonds for irrigation and drainage projects, makes the following convincing argument in favor of state guarantee:

My Dear Mr. Chapman: I note with dismay your remarks in the Oregon Voter regarding the result of the Salem convention called at the instance of the Irrigation Congress for the purpose of furthering irrigation, drainage and rural credits. I trust you will recover your shaken nerve and call to mind the fact that cheap politics generally leads to an ignominious political funeral. Let us hope that history repeats itself in this instance.

Nevertheless and notwithstanding, with all due regard and respect for the wisdom of Portland financiers, backed by your own experience, I think we are standing on our own feet; I think we have backed the wrong horse; I feel that we should not ask Oregon to issue one bond nor call on the taxpayers for one dollar and am of the opinion that neither is necessary for us to accomplish our desires, which are to make Oregon the most progressive, most populous and most desirable of all our splendid states.

I have seen no reason why Oregon should be asked for either bonds or for money. Neither the farmers of Oregon nor the drainage districts nor the proposed irrigation projects are mendicants. They are no more charity children than any other industrial enterprise in this great land of opportunity; needing money, they have a right to ask its loan.

If our state might have one little clause in the constitution which would permit it to guarantee, under proper safeguards of a fair statute and management, bonds of irrigation projects, why and when would any bond issue or advance of funds be necessary?

Examination of the Irrigation district law will show that no district may proceed without sanction of the state engineer and under supervision of that office. This should warrant feasibility—the first requirement. The law provides that the bonds shall run 30 years with redemption beginning at the end of 21 years. It provides that the county shall treat non-payment of interest just as it treats non-payment of taxes.

Surely land with a water right ought to be worth more than its yearly rental.

A water right at \$40 ought to sell for \$2.40 each and every year that it defaulted interest. Someone would pay out each year. At the end of 21 years 5 per cent of the principal is to be paid; surely the land will be worth that amount at the end of that time, if there is a state in Oregon.

How then can the state lose by getting an irrigation district money at 6 per cent from the district and paying say 4 1/2 per cent, holding the other 1 1/2 per cent as a sinking and redemption fund for the benefit of the district unless defaults are made which consume it, or a portion of it? Six per cent interest does not scare our irrigator; it's the commission and discounts that—vulgarily—get his goat.

Surely there can be no loss here and much gain without any necessity for bonds or cash—just the backing of a powerful financial concern which indisputably can pay.

The drainage law is not so good for the farmer as it stands, but the security is more available. First it is necessary for us to make the people understand what drainage is. It is seldom, in its broad sense, swamp recovery. It means so preparing the land that all surplus water gets away immediately, drawing air and nitrogen into it where action of natural chemistry converts it into plant food and feeds the roots through the gatherers of that great plant necessity.

Drainage districts are a security more immediately available than irrigation securities. Instance the Nyssa-Arcadia district in Malheur county; one 80 acres being salable for three times the money required by the entire five thousand acres. Such security would get money through state guarantee at quick time and low interest while now the inevitable commission and discount is demanded, measured in the main by the backbone of the supervisors to withstand the blandishments or overcome the subtle arguments of the wily bond buyer.

As to rural credits; presuming proper safeguards as to appraisement, why could not the state guarantee the mortgage of any worthy land backed by an industrious owner or lessee? Why would not such a mortgage command a good rate of interest in money markets? Why would not a market soon be created for such securities? The detail could easily be worked out by financial minds and methods and the execution would not more than serve to keep present idle political servants at Salem at work at something beside laying wires to hold onto their office.

The proposed bond issue of \$19,000,000 amounts to but little. I am informed that the farmers of the state owe some \$26,000,000 averaging 8 per cent interest. Thus the proposed

amendment would not provide for refunding the present indebtedness, unless the borrowers refused to pay interest on the bonds and put the entire amount of interest into a revolving fund as proposed by one Portland Aladdan.
JOHN RIGBY,
Vale, Oregon.

Registration of Malheur County

Following is the registration of the republican and democratic voters by precincts in Malheur county. In addition a few scattering voters registered as socialists, progressives, independent, etc.:

Precinct	Rep	Dem
Riverside	43	15
North Vale	110	49
Harper	23	10
Juniper	31	17
Basin	42	21
Jones	16	1
Juntura	59	5
Malheur	59	40
Beulah	15	8
Rome	18	10
Cairo	133	91
Ontario No 1	68	66
Arcadia	81	67
Grange	128	65
Westfall	46	11
Bully	56	30
South Vave	149	51
Nyssa	126	74
Bonita	43	26
Jamieson	55	30
Jordan Valley	42	16
Snake River	121	78
Owyhee	54	23
Watson	41	20
Ironsides	53	37
Ontario No 3	160	84
Ontario No 2	187	125
Rockville	13	7
Crowley	35	23
Skullsprings	3	
McDermitt	none	
Cord	31	7
Brogan	43	32
Fair	161	66
Big Bend	54	48
	2304	1253
Total registration for primary	3872	

MITCHELL BUTTE.

The day is closing, Mitchell Butte;
I stretch my hands toward thee,
And though I wish to pray,
My lips are mute.
My soul is listening to a voice
That speaks from thee.
It tells me to be strong and brave and free
From all things small and mean,
And with foundation firm
Be not ashamed to stand
With head uplifted; a strong mark in the land.
And when the storms beat hard on every side,
'Twill ruffle but the surface of the mind.
While, from a heart made warm, will spring
Waters of love and healing for mankind.
I bow my head, the sun sinks low,
And crowns old Mitchell with its glow.
—MRS. H. WALTERS

We are authorized to announce that A. W. Gowan is a candidate for the office of joint-senator for the Twenty-second Senatorial District, comprising the counties of Grant, Harney and Malheur, subject to the decision of the republican voters at the primary election, May 19, 1916. Paid Adv.

NOTICE OF DRAINAGE HEARING.

To the owners and all persons interested in the lands, corporate and other property in and adjacent to the Nyssa-Arcadia Drainage District:

You and each of you are hereby notified that D. Tensen, Roy Williams and J. C. Fleming, for and on behalf of the Nyssa-Arcadia Drainage District, a municipal corporation, and its supervisors thereof, have filed in the office of the County Clerk of Malheur County, Oregon, a petition praying that order and decree of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Malheur County, made August 2, 1915, and entered at pages 34, 35 and 36 in County Court Journal "C" of said Court, be amended, as follows:

(1) That all that portion of the lands of the Nyssa-Arcadia Drainage District, lying between the west line of the right-of-way of the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company and Snake River, and belonging to the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company, Hiram F. Thompson, Michael D. Whelan, Mary E. McDonald, Holden P. Clement, Harry B. Clement, Helen M. Clement, E. A. Wisdom, K. S. D. Fruitland Company, Fred J. Kiesel, Western Union Telegraph Company, (and any others owning land therein or any interest therein) comprising approximately 1080 acres, be excluded from said Drainage District.

(2) That the boundary lines of said District be extended so as to include the following lands adjoining said District, to-wit:

All lands between the right-of-way of the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company and the Owyhee Ditch in Secs. 4, 5 and 6, T. 19 S., R. 47 E., W. 1, and in Secs. 31, 32 and 33, and in the SW 1/4 of Sec. 29 and in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 30, T. 19 S., R. 47 E., W. 1, adjoining and extending said District on the north; and All lands between the west line of

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