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## Representative Sinnott Discusses Irrigation Matters

Washington, D. C., June 16.—(Special to the Journal)—Congressman N. J. Sinnott of Oregon, member of the Public Lands, Irrigation and Water Power committees, in a speech this afternoon on the floor of the House sharply touched up the administration for its failure to increase the reclamation fund in these days when the largest possible food production is called for on every hand. He lamented the fact that the yearly recommendations of Secretary Lane, "with his broad vision and knowledge of the West," were pigeonholed by congress and his advice seemingly ignored. Sinnott's remarks were made during the discussion by the House of the reclamation sections of the sundry civil bill. He deplored the circumstance that the appropriations committee had only recommended the expenditure of some \$5,000,000 this year and that this was confined to existing projects, saying in part:

"It does seem to me that this administration ought to profit by the success heretofore had in the reclamation of arid lands and the operation of that act as conducted by the reclamation service. Last year there were raised over \$50,000,000 worth of crops upon government reclamation projects, \$50 to each acre under cultivation, \$30 on acre more than the average raised on all the farms of the country, as shown by the last census report. It does seem to me that this administration ought to venture upon some comprehensive plan of either increasing the reclamation fund or adopting some legislation, such as the Smith Chamberlain bill, which is designed to put the government behind some of these bond issues in the western states, and thereby put in cultivation some of the 17,000,000 acres of arid lands of the West that can be made to produce from 30 to 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, or other food equivalents. The people of my state, in my district, are doing the best they can with limited means, but on account of war conditions they are able to finance but few

of these projects. "They have actually gone out this year in Malheur county and sold irrigation bonds in the same way that the government has gone out and sold Liberty bonds—by appealing to the patriotism of the community to increase food production. On the Warm Springs project in Malheur county, Oregon, in that manner they expect to sell this summer some \$500,000 worth of bonds and have under irrigation next year some 20,000 acres of land that will produce from 30 to 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, or its equivalent in other food products. In the Jordan Valley, in Malheur county, we have inaugurated a project this year that will require an expenditure of \$2,000,000 and which will irrigate 40,000 acres. Last year in Crook county, Oregon, they raised \$300,000 by a bond issue. They will have under irrigation this fall on the Ochoco project over 20,000 acres of land which will produce from 30 to 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, or its equivalent in other food products. We are financing these three projects to the extent of \$3,400,000, or within \$900,000 of the total received by Oregon from the reclamation fund to the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, 1917, while up to the same time Oregon has paid into the reclamation fund nearly \$11,000,000."

During the course of Representative Sinnott's remarks Representative Mondell stated that there were two items of \$100,000 providing for investigation of new projects in this bill to which the member from Oregon replied: "We want something more than investigations. I would like to see congress and I would like to see the president give some attention to the repeated letters and recommendations of Secretary Lane. The secretary is conversant with the matter, but his voice is the 'voice of one crying in the wilderness.' His advice comes here and is repeatedly ignored and pigeonholed."

Mr. Sinnott read to the House a letter from J. H. Upton, president of the Oregon Irrigation Congress, setting out a plan for reclamation of arid lands for the returning soldiers, to make homes for them. In commenting on the merits of Mr. Upton's plan Sinnott called attention to a similar letter sent to members of congress a few days ago. When Representative Cooper of Wisconsin stated that he had caused the secretary's letter to be placed on the Record Mr. Sinnott replied: "Yes, and it will sleep in the Record so far as this administration is concerned, if the record of the past is a criterion. You will see that no activity will be had with regard to the matter, and we will still be confined to the limited moneys in the reclamation fund for future development unless more attention is paid to Secretary Lane's yearly recommendations than has been paid in the past."

An ambitious aviator rejected by the military authorities here as too young to join the army, went to France, and in the French service accounted for several German airplanes. Now a private fighting on the front for eight months, discovered to be a veteran of the Civil war, has been sent home as too old. The American fighting spirit which neither youth nor age can daunt, is something Teutonic efficiency did not count upon in its calculations of glorious victories.

The fact that permission is being sought for the ex-czar and his family to leave Siberia, is a striking commentary on the wobbling position which autocracy holds in the world today. This petty favor is being asked for the man who a year ago was absolute master of the lives and fortunes of millions, whose only law was his personal will.

Recognizing the enemy animus inspiring false reports of bad conditions at American training camps, Surgeon General Gorgas invites all loyal citizens to assist him in tracing them to their sources. Sponders of rumors of this kind are likely to be less numerous hereafter than they have been in the past.

We have heard for many years that a willful waste makes a woeful want, but a new suggestion is that a thin waist makes a condition of want. Women who wear extremely sheer clothing need extra food to keep them warm, it is argued. Consequently they are practicing conservation when they dress more warmly.

### SOME REASONS WHY WHEAT MUST BE SAVED

"A Man Cannot Think, Work or Fight When He is Hungry"—We Must Feed Our Soldiers.

"We have the preservation of the world on our hands. Every single living human being in this republic, from ocean to ocean, should make it his or her special purpose to save food."

These are the words of E. F. Cullen, personal representative of Herbert C. Hoover, in a recent address.

"Men will resist any power but the power of starvation," said Mr. Cullen. "Hunger in the final analysis, is the only force that can weaken a nation and demoralize an army. Food is strength, and without a perpetual supply of strength, the world can stand in danger of tottering, weakening and falling into utter chaos. A man cannot think, work or fight if he is hungry."

"The allies today are practically wholly dependent upon the United States for food. Upon this nation rests the responsibility of preserving the world from Prussianism. This is the task of the people of this nation—to produce and save food enough to keep a steady stream of essential supplies moving towards the front so long as it shall be necessary to wage this war. If at any time we fall in this, we must inevitably go down, with the allies, to defeat. This is no exaggeration, but a serious fact. It is the purpose of the United States Food Administration to bring the realization of this fact home to every American man, woman and child, and to enlist the individual aid of our hundred million people in producing and saving food. The Food Administration is not asking you to eat less; it only urges that you substitute one nutritious food for another, equally nutritious food, thus saving the vital staples needed by our armies and the armies and peoples of the allies. We must, during the next three months, save wheat especially. Our surplus has already been shipped abroad, and a hundred million bushels more are needed. When you eat a slice of bread less, omit the crackers with your soup, or otherwise conserve on wheat products, you are contributing towards the hundred million bushels needed over there by our fighting men and the exhausted people of Belgium, France and England who have for more than three years been bearing the brunt of this war, which is our war. Keep this in mind, and bring it before the minds of your thoughtless friends and neighbors."

## Our Wheat Problem

Transportation will be inadequate to move all the crop at threshing time. The present elevator capacity is not sufficient to store the crop. Therefore it is up to the farmer to build a granary.

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