

# THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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This issue of The Journal is dedicated to Owyhee Dam. Its publication was assisted by Engineer F. A. Banks, C. A. Betts, Frank T. Morgan and others who supplied much information and some of the photographs contained herein. We also wish to thank the advertisers who have accorded us their cooperation.

## OWYHEE DAM IS REALITY

Owyhee dam will be dedicated Sunday. It is completed. What a story these few words tell. It is a story which began when the west was young, in the days of hitching posts. Men now silvery-haired were fired with the ambition of builders of an empire and such the future will prove them to be. Then came the engineers and the builders with the great machinery which is a challenge to even this modern age. Their task is complete, a wonderful accomplishment and we rejoice with all of them.

Another chapter in this beautiful story will unfold in the coming springtime when water will splash on the edges of the reservoir. Then storage will begin for the new farms which will make the Owyhee project blossom like a rose. We can scarcely appreciate the development which is destined for this country of ours but we are told that together the Owyhee and Vale projects will double our present acreage under irrigation. Our projects will provide homes for as many people as we have on our irrigated lands at the present time. We possess an empire on the eve of transformation. Is there any section in all this broad land more blessed than ours?

Good things have come our way since first work began on the Owyhee about four years ago. In the neighborhood of 600 men have been employed during this period. In fact they have received a large share of the millions already spent in construction. Much of this income has in turn passed to the people of the Snake river valley. The work has helped us all.

It is a time for rejoicing. We can look back with a deep sense of gratitude. We can look forward with well founded assurance that our country is on the road to growth unparalleled.

## IT LOOMS FOR OREGON

(Oregon Journal)

The secretary of the interior will dedicate the Owyhee dam at the dam Sunday. Men in public office and civic leadership will be heard on the program. Two states will be represented in the celebration.

The Owyhee dam is, and will be until the completion of

Boulder dam on the Colorado, the highest in America. In its construction, methods were tested of cooling concrete under pressure that are now being used to insure the success of Boulder dam.

The Vale-Owyhee project is the largest undertaken by the United States reclamation service. Its cost exceeds \$20,000,000. It will bring water to some 125,000 acres of land. It will provide opportunity for many homes on the Oregon side of the warm and fertile Snake river valley, where the corn that is grown yields more than the fields of Illinois and Iowa, and peaches often have the size of indoor baseballs.

The dedication of the Owyhee dam and the development of the Vale-Owyhee project have an extraordinary political as well as economic interest to Oregon. It is an Eastern Oregon region that will be susceptible to intense settlement. Time must elapse before lands are taken, cities grow and life is established, but in the end the increase of population will probably give Eastern Oregon, representing in area two thirds of the state, two congressmen where now it has one.

Zones of influence, agricultural and commercial, will be established. There will be new urge either for a water grade rail down the Snake to the Columbia or a high land route across the interior and through a low pass of the Cascades to the port of Portland. This city will little by little become a ware of a new contributing force to its business and industrial activity. The fact that on the program of dedication at Owyhee Portland is not recognized may give the business leaders of this city a suggestion that indifference to Oregon's agricultural interest is not wise.

The Vale-Owyhee dam dedication should be acknowledged as a step in a transition of a state.

In many a way it will contribute to the growth and strength of the Oregon Country. It is encouragement and stimulus.

## GREAT FUTURE BEFORE OWYHEE

(Oregonian)

Completion of the Owyhee dam marks a great event in the history of eastern Oregon. The reservoir behind the dam will store water for a great tract of the most fertile land in Malheur county, which excels in productivity any land in the humid regions that is subject to the whims of weather. Its possibilities are proved by adjoining tracts which have already been reclaimed and cultivated.

Owyhee and the neighboring Vale project are examples of the new policy of the reclamation bureau, by which settlers are secured for a project while it is under construction. Co-operation of neighboring communities and of Oregon Chamber of Commerce has enabled the reclamation bureau to plant settlers having the necessary capital and experience on each section of the Vale project as water was put on it, and so it will be with Owyhee. From the start each section will be a going concern, producing enough to pay the annual charges, including repayment of construction cost.

Proved possibilities of such land are full refutation of the arguments made against reclamation. Surplus production of staple crops is no reason for not developing arid land, the best in the country, where every farmer can a living by growing crops that are not staple and of which there is no surplus. It is a reason for withdrawing from cultivation submarginal land in the middle west which cannot yield a living and which should be relegated to grazing or forest, unwise use of land in the middle west is no cause for the arid land states to leave unproductive the only cultivable land they have.

## ANOTHER HIGHWAY SERVES MALHEUR

For long years the southeastern part of Oregon has awaited highway development, but now it seems this part of the state is coming into its own. We took another step forward when we celebrated the Yellowstone Cut-off highway dedication last week end. It gives us a shorter route to the markets of California and a good tourist highway.

All that remains in completion of the route is the gap in the Central Oregon highway between Peach and Juntura and Crane and part of that is under construction at the present time. No less an authority than Leslie M. Scott, chairman of the state highway commission, stated that the last gap will be constructed just as soon as state finances permit.

A trip over the new road in Malheur county to Peach is a revelation. The canyon of the Malheur river is beautiful. Along the banks of the river are some of the oldest ranches in Malheur county, among them the properties of the Wm. Jones estate, Lee Steers at Peach and the old Froman place. Fantastic rocks and cliffs border the new highway.

An interesting sight is the diversion dam of the new Vale project. The road passes near the enterprising little village of Harper with its fine, new brick school building. Then the fertile ranches, which in yesteryears made up the immense Harper ranch of the Pacific Livestock company, and the little farms on the Vale project lead the way to Vale. Settlers enjoy the new highway and without doubt it has been one of the biggest factors in successful colonization of the Vale project lands.

Be thankful that there's one good way to escape political arguments. You can still dig a can of worms and go fishing by yourself.

Dandruff is said to be "chips off the old block."

After all ignorance seems to be when you don't know anything and somebody finds it out.

Congo natives, we read, ate a tax collector. In this country we stop with roasting them.

"What-a-Man" has seemingly developed into what a nuisance.

## Voice of the Press

PRIMITIVE LAW OF INHERITANCE  
Salem Statesman

The son of the founder of one of the big tobacco companies ended his life. Cause is unknown. He surely had no financial worries. He had never worked in the big plant his father built up. The cigarette business has continued immensely profitable. He was only twenty but had gotten rid of one wife and married another. Maybe he was just exhausted because he had tasted the sweets of life and nothing more seemed to be left him.

His brother has been something of a wanderer; he never worked either. Why should he, with \$5,000,000 left him?

What terrific strain the old law of inheritance is under! Originally it conveyed to the first born son the meagre possession of the decedent father. Later the patrimony was ordered divided among all the children, a change ranking as one of the solid achievements of Thomas Jefferson in Virginia. But the right of devising a few tools, few head of horses and cattle, a few rods of land to one's children carries over into a socialized economy and enables one who has built up an industrial barony to bequeath it to his children who may never see it.

There may be justification for permitting a competent individual to amass a fortune by dint of his own thrift and intelligence. But why such a great wealth which after all in this day and age is chiefly a social product should pass by inheritance intact to heirs who may be idlers and incompetents is one of the mysteries of our times. If the Reynolds boys had been left to work for themselves they would probably have made better citizens and found life intensely worth while.

## PROHIBITION POLLS

Portland.—(To the Journal)—This statement relative to "Prohibition Poll" is directed by a group of leaders from the following organizations: Portland Federation of Women's Clubs; Oregon Women's Christian Temperance Union; Anti-Saloon League of Oregon; Portland Council of Churches; Prohibition Committee of One Hundred and the Portland Ministerial Association.

We do not bring into question the motives which inspire this method of seeking to ascertain the trend of opinion upon the repeal or retention of the Eighteenth Amendment, at this particular time. We do not question a newspaper's right to sponsor a "poll" on any issue at any time. We do wish to assert, however, that under the method by which such polls of recent years have been conducted, a more reliable method could scarcely be found. No possible amount of care on the part of the sponsor can prevent wholesale duplication of votes. Certainly a resume of results of such polls and the subsequent election figures abundantly substantiate such a conclusion.

Oregon's consistent dry majorities thru recent years can hardly be overlooked by anyone who desires to know the prevailing sentiment of Oregon's electorate. We are well aware, as are most thoughtful people, that the real purpose of such polls of recent years has been mainly to affect the vote rather than to ascertain the sentiment of the people. It is because of these views that we have heretofore usually advised non-participation in such attempts. For the same reason we are addressing this newspaper and its readers and are advising our constituents throughout the State of our action. We desire to state in concluding, that a persistent crusade to get the electorate registered and to the polls in November would be of far greater value in getting a reliable expression of the Oregon citizenry than any number of pre-election unofficial "polls".

(Signed) ADA JOLLEY, President  
Oregon W. C. T. U.

## E. M. Blodgett

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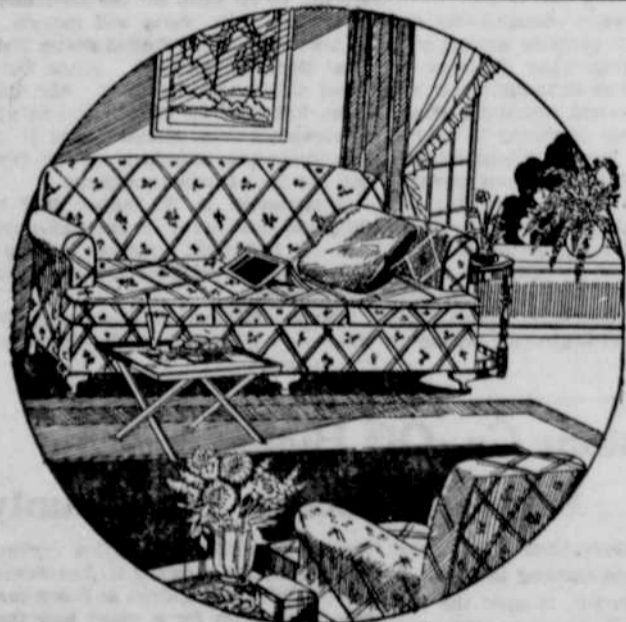
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