

# The Caldwell Tribune.

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CALDWELL, IDAHO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1904

WEEKLY, \$2.00 PER YEAR

## COSTS MORE THAN ESTIMATE

### Statement Showing Difference on Phyllis

Controversy having arisen over the cost of construction on the Phyllis side hill, and some being of the opinion that there has been erroneous estimates favorable to contractors, the following is submitted with a view to throwing light on the subject which may enable the people to arrive at reasonably accurate conclusions pending the investigation which it is understood will be made.

There is on file in the office of the Irrigation District an estimate of the cost of construction of the Phyllis from the head to Five Mile, made by Engineer Wiley, Oct. 21, 1901. In the estimate he includes a permanent dam on the river to cost \$3000, after deducting this, his estimate puts the cost at \$43,109. From this should also be deducted about \$5,000, calculated by Mr. Wiley for engineering, right of way, etc., thus leaving the estimate on actual excavation, in round numbers, \$38,000. This estimate, as stated by Mr. Wiley in his letter is based on a straight price of 15 cents a cubic yard for side hill work, 8 and 10 cents a yard for excavation on the level.

At these figures, it would cost about \$38,000 to construct the Phyllis from the head to Five Mile. Unfortunately the work could not be contracted at the prices used by Mr. Wiley in his estimate, and he was aware of that when he made it, for he calls attention to the fact that everything has advanced more than 10 per cent and advises the sale of bonds in excess of his estimate. He also explains that this Oct., 1901, estimate is based on prices prevailing two years ago.

When actual contracts were let the lowest bid on the work was submitted by Faris & Kesl, and was as follows: Earth 14.9 cents a yard; loose rock and hard pan 34.3 cents a yard; wet excavation 37.5 cents a yard. According to the January estimate of Engineer Hedden, 139,405 cubic yards of earth, 42,723 cubic yards of loose rock and hard pan, and 9258 yards of wet material have been moved. At the maximum price upon which Mr. Wiley's estimate is based it would cost \$28,707.90. But at the price at which actually had to be paid the cost foots up as follows:

139,405 cubic yards earth at 14.9c	\$20,771.35
42,723 cubic yards, classified as loose rock at 34.3c	14,663.99
9,258 cubic yards wet excavation at 37.5c	3,471.75
	\$38,907.09

Thus it will be seen that actual cost covering precisely the same number of yards is 35 per cent more than Mr. Wiley's maximum estimate, and it was upon Mr. Wiley's estimate that the Board of Directors based their calculations.

This gives a basis for calculation on the whole work from the head of the Phyllis to Five Mile. Mr. Wiley's estimate makes the cost \$38,000, to which it would seem to be necessary to add 35 per cent, amounting to \$14,300, to arrive at actual cost. Adding the \$14,300 to the \$38,000, we get \$52,300, as the cost of excavation on the Phyllis from its head to Five Mile.

Mr. Wiley made all the original estimates for the District, and if it shall prove that his figures are 35 per cent too low, throughout, it will take some \$42,875 more to complete

the system than was anticipated by the Board of Directors.

#### Broom Corn.

When you stop to consider from an agriculturist's standpoint the recognized merits of broom corn as a poor man's crop, it is surprising that the growing of this most profitable crop has been so sadly neglected. It has never been my experience to be located in a country before, where the conditions are as adaptable to this crop in our fertile valley. With our abundance of sunshine and dry summers I consider the conditions ideal for the cultivation and harvesting of broom corn to perfection. It is a crop which will thrive under neglect to a surprising degree adapting itself to surrounding conditions as though created here.

As to its cultivation it requires very little, and seems to enjoy being undisturbed as you will understand when I tell you, that for every fiber of broom corn contained in the tassel there is a corresponding root. The top root furnishing the substance for the center stem in the tassel. Now should the plant be undisturbed in its growth by cultivation or wind storms the center stem would not exist as it is by that very reason that it does exist. As in cultivation broom corn, you disturb the surface roots and retard the growth to a certain extent, while the top root which is protected by its position still continues to supply sap to its corresponding member. Thus the center stem is formed in the tassel. In irrigation broom corn it requires about the same amount of moisture as potatoes, and when the tassel emerges from the root the water should be turned off. Allowing it to mature slowly as a forced growth at this period would cause more or less crooked corn. In harvesting the standard varieties the only tool needed is a common pocket knife. The dwarf kinds can easily be pulled by hand and thrown on the ground between rows to cure. Thus saving the expense of immense sheds necessary in the east for curing broom corn. After it is thoroughly dry thresh off the seed, and you have an article of commerce unrivaled, by any crop that grows, upon an equal area with less work time and trouble usually bestowed upon the average crop. The ordinary yield of broom corn is 1-3 ton per acre and its present value as per K. C. quotations from dealers range from \$100, for damaged to \$210, for choice green corn, per ton. With a prospect of it going much higher, in fact I do not look for any notable decrease until the shortage which exists at the present time shall be supplied.

The available supply has far several years been unequal to the demands upon it thus reducing the reserve surplus to a minimum broom corn, belongs to the sorgum family and like its parent is a great drought resister. Its value depends: first upon its straightness of fiber, 2nd by its length fineness and color, 3rd by its fullness of top and absence of center stems. Broom corn to be ideal should be straight fine fiber full top, choice green color, stemless and selfworking. It is judged commercially in three classes as to length, inside, covers, and

curl, corn containing a sufficiency of each length to use up the other lengths in the manufacture of brooms is called selfworking corn, and is most desirable to the trade, commanding a better price than either of the other lengths. The fodder which is a valued by-product may be harvested with an ordinary corn knife and shocked for feed, furnishing you with as many tons as could be produced on the same amount of land of any hay crop. And here, with the absence of rain and cloudy weather the seed reaches almost a perfect stage of maturity, without any deteriorating effects upon the fiber. The seed weighing 48 lbs. per bu. with 30 bu. per acre almost equals kafir corn in feeding qualities, furnishing another valuable by-product of this wonderful plant. In conclusion I will say that, surrounded by the ideal conditions afforded by this beautiful valley broom corn grows in all its glory. Reaches maturity in all its perfections. And with the advent of manufacturing enterprises depending upon you for this valuable product as their raw material, will create an industry and make of which any state might well be proud.

C. T. HOWARD.

#### Something Must Be Done.

Editor of THE TRIBUNE:—It seems unwise to fix blame until one knows who deserves it. In the matter of the Phyllis Canal, many of the users of water are uncertain. It was understood by some of us last fall when the water was turned out early that the work especially that on the hillside would

be done before the ground froze. It is evident to those who will take the trouble to go and look at that portion of the canal that, unless some hitherto unused means be employed at once, it will be late in the spring before water can be turned in. Then there will be a month or more before the water can be gotten through to the lower end in a serviceable head. By that time the fields will be thoroughly dry, the water in the river will begin to fail, and we shall again have no crops.

Cannot some pressure be used to have the contractors complete that work. What are contracts and condemnments for if nobody can be held responsible? Do the farmers know the condition of things, and the prospect which confronts them for another season?

Is it true, as has been asserted, that the funds of the District are exhausted? If so, surely some means can be employed at once to furnish water for the coming season. But, now is the time to discover and apply a remedy; not when the water should already be on the fields. A tax of ten dollars an acre when we have had water is easier paid than ten cents when we have been without water.

We are all intensely interested in new railroads and trolley lines, in good wagon roads, and in plans for securing government aid in the construction of reservoirs and new canals, but the one thing which surpasses all else in immediate importance is the completion of the Phyllis Canal along the hillside. If that work is not done at once we shall all be in a sorry plight for another year. Give us what facts you can, and then let us see if something cannot be done.

DAVID A. CLEMENS.

## CEASE YOUR WRANGLING

### And Get Down to Business Says "A Water User"

ED. TRIBUNE—If you would study human nature, attend a meeting of the Directors of the P. I. Dist. These thoughts came to me while attending the last meeting of the board. I have often wondered why the farmers were not more united than they are. When I see a gathering of farmers and hear their vastly different subject—no two of them having the same view—on the same subject. Now I can see the cause. We farmers do not give enough time and study to business propositions. We should meet oftener as neighbors and discuss business matters of vital importance to us, and have mass meetings for exchange of opinions on business vital to farm interests. We would certainly be better enabled to meet, say, the great Pioneer District Board, and express our wants and fears so they could, at least, be understood by the casual bystander. The trouble is right here. There is

no united effort, no two want the same thing at the same time. They feel there is something wrong and want it righted, but each wants it in his own way. They begin to criticize those in charge and condemn them unheard. Not only for what they have done, but also for what they are going to do. Not coming before their officers at their meeting in a businesslike and friendly way, and asking them for an explanation. The trouble is this, "A" visits Caldwell, there learns that the ditch is not being constructed according to specifications; the directors by some error in estimates have spent all the district's funds, are unable to finish it this year; there is a \$5000 shortage. "B," to whom it is told, not to be outdone by "A," makes the shortage \$15,000. So it goes. A story loses nothing by being told often.

Now, fellow farmers, let us reason together. Instead of reporting the shortcomings of the directors let us get at facts and in a business way go before the board and see if affairs are as reported. Give them a chance to explain affairs. Do you ever stop to think of the magnitude of this undertaking? This is the first district to form in the State. No precedent to go by. Do you consider what the completion of this undertaking means to us farmers? Our directors are human and are liable to err. I know how it feels to plant a crop and build air castles on the proceeds, and see them fade away for want of water. How easy to throw the fault on the directors and their employees. I have done my share of kicking, but it has not helped matters. From now on let us stop this fault finding and one and all, by all means in our power, unite to aid and encourage our officers in their endeavors to complete this great enterprise, not report what "A" or "B" may report. Investigate in a business way, and give those in charge a chance to explain affairs. I think by pursuing this course we will all feel better and the officers will feel they have the backing of the farmers and patrons of the district. Yours,

A WATER USER.

Pleasant Ridge, Feb. 3.

#### Joint Installation.

On last Saturday afternoon, "Hugh Wilson" Post No. 21 Grand Army of the Republic and Hugh Wilson Corps No. 13 Woman's Relief Corps had their newly elected officers installed by Past Department Commander Wm. C. Maxey.

After installation the tables were spread and covered with the best of food, of which all ate until satisfied. Following the luncheon, Rev. Helman made a patriotic address. Music and singing followed. All seemed happy and glad they were there. They were much indebted to the ladies of the W. R. C. for their successful effort. Another annual milestone for the G. A. R. and W. R. C. is passed. A. Doore is Post Commander and W. A. George is his adjutant. Mrs. M. Wilson, President and Mrs. E. C. Moore is her Secretary.

#### Notice

Notice is hereby given that I will hold a teacher's examination at the Court House in Caldwell, Canyon County, Idaho, February 25, 26 and 27. CORA B. BEAN, Supt. of Public Instruction.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1903

OF

### The Board of Directors of the Pioneer Irrigation District of Canyon and Ada Counties

#### STATEMENT AND RECAPITULATION

The treasurer's report indicates that \$422.91 of construction fund warrants which have been issued had not been presented for payment at the time he made his report.

His report also indicates an outstanding General Fund warrant indebtedness of \$1640.76 in excess of the warrants issued during the year 1903. This occurs in consequence of delinquent taxes, the property being struck off to the District, and also the fact that lands owned by the State were assessed but the State Board holds that it has no authority to pay taxes which accrued prior to the present year. As a result of these conditions, the estimated funds in 1901 and 1902, fell somewhat short of the actual funds raised. However, these amounts are not lost to the District, but will be paid gradually by redemption of tax sale certificates and payment of back taxes on State land as it falls into the hands of private owners. This liquidation is now in process.

The following summary will show the actual financial condition of the District, Jan. 31, 1904:

Entire Bond issue	\$387,500 00
Bonds sold	185,000 00
Balance in Treasury	12,500 00
After deducting purchase of Phyllis and Caldwell and commissions there was actually realized in cash on bonds sold	101,500 00
There has been paid for actual construction work, including emergency work on Phyllis	91,806 43
There was on hand Jan. 31	9,943 73
Total	\$101,750 16

The bond fund has been augmented by \$250.16 in consequence of slight over calculations on amount necessary to be apportioned to meet interest payment.

#### CASH ON HAND AND TAXES UNPAID JAN. 31, 1904.

In construction fund	\$ 9943 70
In interest fund	2603 95
In general fund	6877 02
Unpaid land tax fund	4924 74
Unpaid water rate	2201 45
The warrant indebtedness incurred during the present year, exclusive of enlargement work done on the Phyllis below Nampa is	13327 21
Of this amount there was paid in January	1729 82
Balance outstanding	11597 39

For the redemption of which, cash on hand in in general fund, unpaid land taxes and water rates are applicable.

T. C. EGGLESTON,  
President Board of Directors,  
Pioneer Irrigation District.

Dated Caldwell, Idaho, Feb. 2, 1904.

Labor on canals, including cleaning out and improving, also salaries of water-masters, superintendent and cost of second break	\$ 9602 43
Material used in headgates, etc., including lumber, hardware, etc., in maintenance	1897 59
Permanent enlargement including labor and material on works below Nampa	7630 36
Cost of General Election, also legal services not incident to the election	352 78
Damages paid to Huston Frost, caused by break of previous year	250 00
Expense of Board of Arbitration	25 00
Salaries of Directors, Secretary and Treasurer, also stationery, printing and postage	1229 50
Grand Total	\$20957 57

Drawn on Construction Fund during the year 1903:	
Paid contractors for work on Phyllis canal	\$50985 39
Paid contractors for work on Caldwell canal	14972 57
Total paid contractors	65957 96

Material used in construction work, including lumber, sewer pipes, hardware, piles, etc.	\$8097 51
Labor on bridges, flumes, drains, etc.	2592 03
Costs of Rights of way	3282 20
Engineering and superintending	5231 40
Miscellaneous labor, including force account of contractors, hauling material, checking unloading cars, constructing permanent headgates, etc.	2098 35
Emergency work on Phyllis time of break in May	2772 63
Office building furnishing, vault doors, record books, building yard and out-houses	1254 35
Commissions for placing bonds, advertisements on bonds and contracts, Duke M. Farson & Co., 4 per cent commission on \$50,000 of bonds placed Howard Sebree, 5 per cent on \$25,000 of bonds placed	2000 00
W. P. Carter, 5 per cent on \$5,000 of bonds placed	1250 00
Advertising of bond sale and advertising for bids for contracts	250 00
Advertising of bond sale and advertising for bids for contracts	171 75
Total	\$29510 23

#### Receipts and disbursement reported by treasurer:

#### Treasurer's Annual Report.

CALDWELL, Idaho, Jan. 31, 1904.

#### RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand last report, Jan. 31, 1903	\$ 30,149 56
Received from sale of bonds, v. s.:	
Duke Farson & Co., Chicago	\$50,000 00
Howard Sebree, Caldwell, Idaho	25,000 00
W. P. Carter, Nampa, Idaho	5,000 00
	\$80,000 00
Received of accrued interest on bonds	3,195 89
Received from acreage tax	15,835 84
Received from water rents	6,783 63
Received from fines	10 00
Received from sale of old lumber	26 10
Total	\$135,981 02

#### DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid construction warrants during the year	\$ 95,056 27
Paid general warrants, during the year	7,778 05
Paid interest on bonds	13,722 00
Cash balance on hand	19,424 70
Total	\$135,981 02