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THE OROVILLE WEEKLY GAZETTE
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HOPE REALIZED

It is difficult to realize, after the lapse of so long a period since the proposition was first agitated, that the great irrigation scheme to water a large area of valley land marvelously fertile where water can be applied and practically useless and valueless in its virgin state, is now on the way to fulfillment. As the project contemplated the expenditure of so vast a sum, and the difficulty of floating bonds at the present time, under prevailing conditions where capital is chary of investing in any kind of venture, and especially in irrigation bonds, the people of that part of the valley embraced within the limits of the district are to be congratulated that ways and means were at last found for placing the bond issue and in return securing a watering system without which the development of the lands must of necessity have been slow. From the limited amount of land in the valley watered within the past ten years one must realize that it would have required decades of individual initiative to have reclaimed the land now lying idle and unproductive. Now this land must be placed under a high state of cultivation, must be made to produce something of commercial value, with the inauguration of this irrigation system in order that the owners are assured of some income from the acres that must bear the burden of construction. Had not the contract been let when the time was ripe, had any contingency arisen by which the contractors would have been led to withdraw the bids filed, the project might as well have been abandoned for all time, for the lost chance would have been the last chance, at least for years to come. By accepting the proposition this country will make more rapid and marked advancement in the next few years than during the long period since the country was first settled. In point of acreage this is one of the largest irrigation projects in the west not financed by government aid, and one of the very few where it has been possible to float bonds for construction. At the present time there are several irrigation districts organized in the state where it is impossible to secure the necessary funds to carry them out. The people of Oroville and the country contiguous thereto should consider themselves fortunate indeed that after a tedious wait, after discouraging disappointments, their hopes are at last realized.

DEVELOPMENT OF OKANOGAN

It is good news for the state that the West Okanogan Irrigation district has let a contract for the construction of an irrigation system to cost $600,000 and to water 16,000 acres along the Okanogan river in the northern part of Okanogan county. The area of the county, 4,500 square miles, is greater than that of some of the old Atlantic states. Increase of population has been slow because of the lack of good transportation, but that defect is being removed and it will not be many years until the county supports 10 times its present population.

A great deal of the county has fine volcanic ash soil. The mountains are timbered and the hills about the valleys have much pasturage. Fruit, grain, hay, livestock and metals can all be produced there on a large scale.

The irrigation district will be divided into farms of not more than 40 acres. It is found that the cost of water will be about $60 an acre. This is to be paid in 20 years, but no payment of principal is required until the 11th year, which will give the rancher time to get his land on a paying basis. In the 11th year 6 percent of the principal will be paid and the amount will gradually increase from year to year until in the 20th year a final 15 per cent of the principal will be met.

It is regarded as remarkable that a district irrigation project was able to dispose of the large bond issue to raise money for construction. No doubt, the investors that agreed to take the bonds made a thorough investigation of the land as well as of the plans for carrying the water to the land.

The climate and soil of the valley to be watered and the pasturage of the surrounding hills present conditions favorable for diversified farming. Okanogan apples, though not as plentiful as those of several other countries, are famous. The altitudes and temperatures appear to be admirably adapted to apple growing.

Okanogan county will some day be a part of the commonwealth to which we shall all point with pride.—Tacoma Ledger.

THE WAY OF IT

The puzzle has been solved. Uncle Sam has been found with that little adhesive piece of paper necessary to insure the conveyance of correspondence from place to place, and which is of every day use—the postage stamp. It has been noticed for the past two years that these tiny stickers have become very much of a nuisance by their refusal to tear loose with any certainty or regularity, and the patience of the citizen who tries to separate them in order to attach one to an envelope is sorely tried. They have been the cause of more explosive profanity than about anything that enters into the scheme of life and instead of being a pleasing convenience have become a painful trial. Newspaper comment of an unfavorable tenure has been common in the press, and no one seemed able to explain the causes for this imperfection. Now the puzzle is solved. The Colville Examiner comes along with the following lucid explanation which will possibly silence further fault finding.

"Persons who imagine their fingers are getting weak in their old age should not judge from their efforts to separate the U. S. postage stamps now on the market, sold at the same old prices, with no extra charge for the extra paper they now receive in place of the holes that used to be there. The holes are still there, but they are closer apart, instead of being farther together. The philatelist, the name given to the bug who collects stamps, will tell you that the stamps are now perforated 10 instead of 12 as of yore, but it don't assist you any in separating the stamps. The idea is that the holes are fewer in number, and the stamps tear apart harder—or, to put it conversely, as Fred Thompson would tell you, the stamps tear easier. At any rate, the idea desired to be conveyed is that the stamps tear easier but harder apart—which sounds somewhat like mush, but is a fact."

In spite of the extraordinary "war tax" and the new income tax from which so much in the way of receipts was expected, the deficit in the revenue of the government is running far up in the millions. The administration will be playing in luck if a resort to a bond issue to meet expenses does not become necessary before the expiration of another year.

Congressman Dill has been to Washington and on his return the big "I" is being worked over time. He interviewed the heads of the Indian department, throwing the fear of the Lord into those heretofore obdurate individuals, and because "I" demanded it the Colville reservation is to be thrown open in 1916. Evidently the Indian department was not so awed by the stern demands of the great "I" that it was driven to act until it was good and ready. Mr. Dill also announces that he has distributed the loaves and fishes just as he saw fit, and the hungering democrats not on his visiting list may howl in despair. He majestically declares all those who do not wear his brand are wasting time in any effort to land jobs. From this pompous display of self-claimed "influence" one would be led to feel that the new congressman from this district is suffering from an aggravated case of swell head.

The German reply to the president's note of protest against the indiscriminate murder of American citizens on the high seas is rather evasive, and contains provisos that do not meet wholly with the approval of the high officials at Washington. The Lusitania incident is passed up with slight reference, even palliated by the German government, and there is no intimation that submarine warfare will be conducted humanely. The document is couched with friendly words, but no intimation of change of methods in the treatment of merchant ships by submarine commanders. The situation is considered grave, yet it is hardly probable that anything so serious as war will result. This country is not in favor of war so long as an honorable peace is possible, and further correspondence will no doubt clarify the diplomatic atmosphere, and Germany and the United States continue the friendly relations that have obtained over so many years.

A narrow democratic exchange that is blind to the patriotic attitude of the republican press just at this critical period when diplomatic relations between the administration and a foreign power are sharply strained, censures the republican newspapers with conducting a campaign belittling the president. If the editor of that paper will shunt the beam of prejudice from his eye he will be able to see that the republican press is standing loyally by the president in this crisis. It may be added that about the only individual of any note, posing as a journalist as well as a politician, who has hampered the president to any appreciable extent in these trying times is that little god of democracy, Bill Bryan. Wilson's administration is open to criticism in many respects, but just now his political opponents, and especially the press of the opposition, are displaying a praiseworthy uniminity in extending him encouragement and support beyond anything ever before known in the political history of the country.

The Lincoln Herald is a new exchange that reaches this office. It is published by O. U. Hawkins, a veteran eastern Washington newspaper man who is a clever hand with the quill and always gets out a live paper, which is equivalent to adding that the Herald is that kind of a sheeet. Lincoln is located near the junction of the Spokane river and the Columbia, on the site of old Fort Spokane. In early days a large force of troops was stationed at that point, and the government spent thousands of dollars in buildings and other improvements. When the tide of civilization flowed over this part of the state, populating the wilderness, the Indian was relegated to limited territory and ceased to be a menace. He became tame with the change of conditions, there was no further reason for continuing the post, and old Fort Spokane was abandoned. The post is a memory, and military life in that quarter a tradition. The site is one of the most beautiful in the state, surrounded with a broken country where the brawling Spokane mingles its waters with the lordly Columbia, and if a city can be built up principally on scenery Lincoln should some day become a flourishing place.

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