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Houck Hits Drainage Scheme Hard.

(The following article from the pen of Hon. Louis Houck, of Cape Girardeau, appeared in a recent issue of the Jackson Cash-Book.)

Last week I called attention of your readers to the projected diversion channel, or ditch, it is proposed to construct to carry the waters of a great scope of upland country into the Mississippi two miles below Cape Girardeau, and thus drain a district about ten to fifteen miles wide and over one hundred miles long, now worthless for Agricultural purposes, by simply making a NEW SWAMP at our front door. As can be easily imagined, this scheme, to be carried out, will cost a great deal of money, not less than [illegible] million dollars. This expense will have to be borne by the land in the district, and the boundaries of the district therefore become a matter of great importance.

And it is about the boundaries of this district I now propose to say a word or two. One remarkable thing will strike anyone looking over the project, and that is, that at the north end, along the borders of Cape Girardeau and Bollinger counties, where the land is hilly, and after every big rain the water runs off quickly, the district is only twenty five miles wide, but at the lower end of the district, where the water stands [illegible] the time, or at most during a part of the year, and the gradient is from ten to twenty inches [illegible] the district "pinches out" to a width of three miles and a very few [illegible] on the borders of Arkansas.

In looking over the boundaries of the district it will also be discovered that a great body of rich land belonging to the poorer class of this gigantic scheme and which will be absolutely benefited by the work of building a new swamp at our doors, is not embraced in the district. Only the most worthless land has been put into the district in Cape Girardeau and Bollinger counties, with perhaps a few exceptions, where the land owner was not a promoter of the scheme or a non-resident.

Now why was all this good land, or land that can be easily drained by our people up here, without spending millions, put in the district? The answer is simple. To give and make a market for the bonds to do this work that is expected to issue and sell to investors by showing that some of the best farm land of Cape Girardeau and Bollinger counties are embraced in the limits of the district. And why was not the better land of the swamp district put within the boundary limits of the gigantic scheme? Is it not clear, that the limits were so fixed in order that promoters and who own much of this land might escape the burden of taxation, and yet receive the benefit of the projected drainage. As a matter of fact the Harvester Trust or Deering people, if the diversion ditch is built, could let the land they own in the district go for the ditch tax and make money for the benefits that will result to the other land in that district and which they were smart enough not to have put in the district. And other people who are engineering this job are in the same boat.

There are some facts that it will be well to investigate.

Many people of the lower counties who will be made a vicarious sacrifice to promote this great work of so-called reclamation will do well to look into this subject of the boundaries.

Dents in Wood

A very good way to remove dents in wood is to take a piece of wet felt and place it on the dent. Press with a hot flat-iron and the dent will instantly disappear. This is good for all cases of dented wood.—The NEW IDEA WOMAN'S MAGAZINE for January.

Southeast News.

Giles T. Lee of Wayne county was the victim a murderous assault by negroes at East St. Louis, from which he died on the 17th in St. Luke's hospital, St. Louis.

A New Madrid county farmer, cultivating one hundred and sixty acres of land this past season in wheat, corn and cowpeas, found that his gross income was $5,000, or more than $30 per acre.

Jackson Cash-Book.

R. A. Davis brought to town the other day and sold to H. H. Mueller the biggest hog seen on the market here this year. It weighed 670 pounds.

Advance, Mo., Special to the Republic.

A canning factory is going into operation here. [illegible] The plant was captained at $6,200 by local capitalists. J. J. Miller, of Kansas City, was the promoter.

Swampeast Exchange.

A preacher up in Cape county has made trouble, it is said, by obeying too literally the biblical command to love his neighbor. He [illegible] his neighbors but [illegible] loved more service [illegible] of his flock. The women [illegible] a few days [illegible] Dixie Bee.

The Monday slightly two men robbers entered the postoffice at Bragg and secured somewhere around $[illegible] in postage stamps and money. Dr. P. Lockmer, the postmaster, has a store [illegible] with the postoffice and we learn that some $[illegible] or $200 in money was stolen from the store. As yet no clew has been planned as to the robbers. But government officers are at work on the case and it is hoped that the guilty parties will soon be apprehended.

Dunklin Democrat.

Here is another good dog story. Tony Wasteland a female dog one that had been shipped into from Cotton Rock, Ark., a few weeks ago. Well, that dog actually got on a Frisco train here, stole a ride to Campbell, eighteen miles south of there and left the train and attempted to get on a south bound Cotton Belt train, on which she came from Arkansas. The train crew would not let her get on, and some one caught her, and took her in a wagon to Clarkton, where Tony got her last week. Undoubtedly, the dog was trying to get home, by rail.

Dexter Messenger.

W. J. Crutcher, of the Essex country, is possibly the largest individual farmer in Stoddard county and conducts his farms along strict lines. He has about 1300 acres in cultivation, which he tills in corn, hay, wheat and cotton. This year he harvested and marketed 80,000 weight of wheat, to say nothing of his large yield from the other three crops. Mr. Crutcher came in this county thirty years ago a poor man and out of the savings of his daily labor he purchased land. From this humble start, by dint of hard work and frugal habits, he now has one of the best farms in the county.

Caruthersville Democrat.

Sheriff Franklin left Saturday noon with the following prisoners for the penitentiary at Jefferson City: William James, rape, 7 years; Pres Nicholas, sodomy, 2 years; John Wallace, concealed weapons, 2 years; Anchel Webb, murder, 55 years; Will Hayes, felonious assault, 2 years; Ben Harris, gaming, 2 years; Lee Brown, assault with intent to rob, 5 years; Will Taylor, robbery, 2 years; Robert Smith, grand larceny, 2 years; Lulu Chambers, felonious assault, 2 years; Bud Green, felonious assault, 2 years; Isam Barnard, manslaughter, 3 years; Leo Bell, assault with intent to rape, 5 years, and Roy Lewis, felonious assault, 2 years.

Republic Special from Jefferson City.

Two decisions were filed in the Supreme Court in banc to-day in which the levee and drainage district laws, enacted in 1899 and amended in 1905, were held to be valid. One of these suits was from Scott county. There two of the judges of the county court refused to sign bonds to the amount of $100,000, issued for the construction of a drainage district. The validity of the levee and drainage laws was questioned, and also the power of the county court to enter into such contracts. Judge Fox, who prepared the opinion in this case, holds the bonds to be issued are valid. The two judges of the county court are commanded to sign the bonds.

Dexter Messenger.

Earl Stade, giving Minneapolis as his home, and James Conners, of Chicago, two boys giving their ages as eighteen, are being held by the federal authorities in St. Louis to answer to a charge of robbing the postoffice at Zeta, a small station in Stoddard county. The boys were seen in the Arkansas cotton belt [illegible] Friday night and Saturday morning [illegible] at Magnolia, but the federal authorities [illegible] W. Trimble, of Paducah, Ky., [illegible] United States authorities might handle them. The postoffice was robbed sometime during an August night [illegible] the mail, namely [illegible] stamps was taken.

Sikeston Standard.

The honor for longest continuous service as teacher in the same school may now be awarded, so far as Missouri is concerned, Mr. Ferdy Hogenmiller, a Perry county teacher, has, according to his enrollment blank presented at the Perry county association, taught the same school for sixty-three years. He was born in Germany in 1825, came to America in 1834 and began teaching in a district near New Offenburg, Perry county, in 1846. This school he has taught every year since. It would, in all probability be a waste of time to hunt for another such record. When we consider that some districts change teachers every year, and that very few employ the same teacher for more than two years, this record becomes amazing. Mr. Hogenmiller certainly has earned the banner.

Dunklin Democrat.

Mississippi county, in Southeast Missouri, has the first mileof sand gumbo road built in the state. The road was constructed as an experiment by Curtis Hill, the state highway engineer. It is a mile in length, extending north of Charleston. "The sand gumbo road is not expensive," said Mr. Hill. "It cost less than a thousand dollars to build the highway in Mississippi county." The road was a sand bottom in which wagon wheels often went to the hub. The first work was to clean out the ditches so that the road could be properly drained. Then a trough 16 feet wide was made. Gumbo was hauled and placed in this trough and mixed with the sand. The mixing was done with plows, disk harrows and toothed harrows. A sprinkler was used to get the gumbo wet. All was mixed together and then the road was rolled. In time this mixture hardened, so that it became cemented together so as to turn water. "I am trying to build roads out of the material at hand, with the smallest expense possible," said Mr. Hill. "There are six counties in Southeast Missouri where there is little or no rock to construct roads, but where there is plenty of sand and gumbo. We are trying sand and gumbo for the Charleston road. Sand clay roads have been in use several years in the state of Mississippi and elsewhere, and have proved successful.

Maj. Bedford, Aged Lawyer, Dies at Bloomfield.

A Bloomfield special to the St. Louis Times, says:

Maj. Henry H. Bedford, first lawyer to locate and practice in Bloomfield, is dead here. He was 86 years old. Mr. Bedford also bore the distinction of being the town's oldest citizen, having settled here in 1846. He came from Mississippi county, where shortly before he had been admitted to the bar. He attended the first session of the circuit court in Stoddard county.

Mr. Bedford was born in Jackson county, Tenn., Nov. 27, 1823. He grew to manhood in Obion county, Tenn., and emigrated to Mississippi county, Mo., in 1841. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. J. W. Harrison, Mrs. W. R. Adams and Mrs. C. A. Moseley, all of Bloomfield.

1000-Pound Hog Slaughtered in East St. Louis

[illegible] weighed 1000 pounds [illegible] farm, near [illegible] Arcadia [illegible] Bridgeton, Mo., and was fifty years old. Strangers visiting in Texas & Travers, a few miles east of Sulphur, Ill., for sale and Travers & Travers brought him to Dragoon, Baker & Co., at the National Stock Yards. He arrived Wednesday and the commission firm did not succeed in disposing of him until yesterday, when he was sold to Armour's.

On account of Baby Jim's size the buyers hesitated about taking him. He was too large for the scalding tanks and his hams will be useless as hams. They will weigh 60 pounds apiece. Robert E. Conway, manager at the Armour plant, said Chief Cummings, buyer for the firm, finally decided to take him and make him up into sausage meat.

He was slaughtered on the cattle bed, as the hog bed was not large enough. He was not scalded, but had to be skinned. The price paid for him was 6 cents a pound.

Traveling With Taft.

Alfred Henry Lewis, in the January issue of HUMAN LIFE, continues to throw the pitiless searchlight of truth on men high in the councils at Washington whose hands pull the hidden wires of things political.

The story opens with the stealthy visit by night of a Trust yacht to the shores of Beverly, the landing of four men, and their very evident desire to keep their visit to the President's cottage a profound secret. Their names will cause the reader to sit up and take notice. The writer refers to one of them as "The careless one who wrote letters to Standard Oil Archbold, comforting that little grimy thumb of Satan with tales of how he was frightening Mr. Roosevelt." The leader of the quartette he describes as "The right hand of money to smother Congressional investigation of its villainies, and forge what law tools are needed to carry on its rapines."

This is the first time in print that the tale of this Beverly secret conference has been told, but gives the key to much that President Taft was moved to do and say on his tour. All the devious counsels that decided his route, and the why- and wherefores are clearly and mercilessly shown,—why the home city of Senator La Follette was omitted and why that of Mr. Tawney was included.

The amazing powers wielded at the Capitol by the moneyed interests are shown, and how rebellion in the House from the dictates of the arrogent Trusts is suppressed with an iron hand.

The January installment of this series closes with the President's leave-taking at Milwaukee, [illegible] next [illegible] Fort Wayne.

Mr. Lewis does not [illegible] a spade a spade, and the article is written in his inimitable and picturesque style, liberally spiced with humor.

Human Life Publishing Co., Boston.

Bollinger County Court

Exempted Napoleon Yount from road labor for life.

On affidavit of Jacob Elfrink the valuation of 80 acres, sec. 15, twp. 30, r. 10, was corrected.

The petition made on a count for $[illegible] salary of superintendent of poor was [illegible]

J. W. Bazzel was [illegible] $10 salary in all for hired help on road district [illegible]

Principal fund of school district 2-[illegible] and 19, $20, transferred.

H. H. Hudson was allowed $24.50 [illegible] examining courthouse.

[illegible] Amelia [illegible] $[illegible] and $[illegible] for engineering [illegible] Bluffs.

M. Watson allowed $10 for immediate pound of funny.

[illegible] Wilson allowed $51 salary and $[illegible] for hired help and repairs in road [illegible]

[illegible] M. W. [illegible] $18.00 [illegible] "Good Roads Day."

Wm. Hinkle allowed $17 salary and $14.85 for labor in dist 12.

Charles Riley allowed $8 salary and $8 for repairs on county road.

Partial annual report of J. M. Zimmerman, county highway engineer, approved.

Hill & Chandler allowed $1.75 for stationery furnished county school superintendent.

H. [illegible] Cox allowed $11.88 for pile for district road district.

F. M. Stallsmith, overseer road dist 5, allowed $10 salary.

John A. Nenninger, sheriff, allowed $22.50 salary.

Following costs in case of State vs. S. M. McAnally allowed: Jesse A. McGlothlin, officer fee, $18.55; Sam J. McMinn, expert fee, $10; O. R. Kirkpatrick, shff, $4.50; D. J. Conrad, shff, $13; George E. Conrad, atty, $20; John Dowd, witness, $23.65; John Steinnerd, do, $10.50; D. W. Burford, do, $14; Jos. Burford, do, $20; W. F. Kessinger, do, $33.80; George F. Kurre, do, $1.10; J. P. Dunn, do, $1.25; J. A. Prescott, do, $2.20; F. M. Conrad, do, $3.00.

Petit jury for March term of Circuit court:

Lorance township—W. B. Yount, William Strange, L. H. Dosk, George F. Kurre, John Harnes and Geo. Evans.

Lowndes—George W. Garrett, George Hoffman, Alfred Vangessup and Dan Hoffman.

Wayne—Jesse Fish, George W. Kerr, Henry Stills and W. B. Sides.

Ferguson—W. A. Burrell and Frank Dirk.

Penzel township—Myron D. Wheeler and [illegible]

[illegible] F. M. Jones and W. A. Pope.

Wittenberg—Isaac Lee and [illegible]

Bollinger—William M. Williams and [illegible]

F. M. Welch, O. R. Kirkpatrick and Henry Metzger, judges, announced the court adjourned to Jan. 25, 1910.

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Woman's World for January

It is always exceptionally funny to see a man wash dishes. Rex Beach, who made a fortune from his "The Spoilers," "The Barrier" and "The Silver Horde," and who now receives upwards of $[illegible] a word for his writings, contributes the leading article in January WOMAN'S WORLD, Chicago. The title is "Homeless Housekeeping" in which Mr. Beach graphically and humorously describes how men kept house in Alaska during the rush for gold. Every woman will enjoy reading "Homeless Housekeeping" and she will facetiously pass it along to the men members of her household.

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