



WEST STAYTON EXCURSION

# Opinions

*of Some of the Men  
Who Visited the  
Willamette Valley  
Irrigated Land  
Company  
Project at  
West Stayton, Ore.*

August 24th, 1911



EXCURSIONISTS TO WEST STAYTON, ORE., AT LUNCH, AUG. 24, 1911

## W. H. LANG

Real Estate Dealer  
of Portland, Ore.

“From what I have seen today, I am more than ever convinced that irrigation in the Willamette Valley will be a grand success and I am more than pleased with the results that I have seen today a West Stayton, from a sixty day trial.”

## R. M. TUTTLE

Capitalist of Portland, Oregon

“The man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is a public benefactor. By this token, how great benefactors are those who will transform a region of indifferent crops because of lack of rain at the crucial growing period, to a region of luxuriant crop product. To take waters that are running to waste in an already over-charged ocean, and accomplish therewith so great a work as now has its beginning at West Stayton, is true Statesmanship.”

## OLIVER P. MORTON

Legal Advisor of the U. S.  
Reclamation Service at Portland

“Though it was not a rabbit farm,  
Before the water bell was rung—  
Although no desert lands all bare,  
Beset the eye and cured the lung—  
'Twas ne'ertheless a wondrous  
thing,  
That Benham, Hartog, all unsung,  
Had made two blades of grass to  
grow,  
Where hitherto but one had  
sprung.”

## F. I. FULLER

Vice President

Portland Railway Light and Power Company

"An inspection of the work being done by the Willamette Valley Irrigated Land Company at West Stayton, confirms our belief that irrigation on land which is subject to little or no rainfall from June to September, cannot fail to be productive of great results.

The beneficial effect of thirty days irrigation too late in the season to give the best results, was plainly apparent. This short period was sufficient to double the height of the irrigated corn and to more than double the size of the fruit on the irrigated portion of a prune orchard. With such results from a short and late season of irrigation it is not difficult to imagine the great benefits to be derived from a full season's supply of water under proper regulation.

The preliminary work of the Company has been done on a scale ahead of present requirements and with a view to comprehensive development for the future. For example, the main ditch from Stayton about four miles in length has been constructed of a capacity sufficient to supply about twenty thousand acres, and can be enlarged if occasion requires. In view of the fact that there are nearly one million acres of land in the Willamette Valley open to irrigation, the immense possibilities of the subject and the ultimate benefits to this State cannot be overestimated. The practical results of the Stayton project will be watched with great interest."

## J. F. DALY

President of the Title & Trust Co.  
of Portland

"A Valley fair to look upon,  
Its soil for richness unsurpassed,  
Its only need: moisture in summer;  
This gained, it will develop vast.

In bringing water from the rivers,  
This only drawback to combat,  
The hand of man to Mother  
Nature,

Lends the assistance needed there.

With drouth of former years all  
vanished,

The Valley bloss' ming like a rose,  
If there are lands of more attraction,  
Then their location no one knows.

'Twill make the land of our  
adoption,

This glorious Western Oregon,  
A Paradise of the Pacific,  
A real Paradise on Earth."

## E. S. JACKSON

Real Estate Dealer  
of Portland

“First I want to propose a vote of thanks to Hartman & Thompson for affording us a day of good things. We have been entertained in a masterly manner, and instructed as we little dreamed, and are going home to sing louder than ever the praises of Oregon and extoll its possibilities.

The irrigation plant we have today examined is but the beginning, or a forerunner of what will be one of Oregon's chief factors of development in a few years.

He who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, is to be commended and if by that action he instructs the multitude to do likewise, he is to be thrice congratulated. The world is better for his having lived and he merits a gravestone inscribed with man's highest compliment: —‘He did things.’”

## WM. Mc MURRAY

General Passenger Agent  
O. W. R. & N. Co.

“Diversified farming will make Oregon the most productive State in the Union. This cannot be obtained however without the use of water conserved for irrigation purposes and applied to the land during the growing season. It would be well for the farmers of our State to see and pattern after the highly intelligent work now being done by the Willamette Valley Irrigated Land Co., at West Stayton, Oregon. Such work will double the population of Oregon in a shorter time than anything else I can think of.”

## E. G. HOPSON

Supervising Engineer of the U. S.  
Reclamation Service at Portland

“Generally speaking, the difference between irrigated and non-irrigated land in the Willamette Valley, is the difference between affluence and comparative poverty, judged from the stand-point of the State of Oregon and the public interests. The farmer, having at his command a plentiful supply of water is independent of ordinary climatic vicissitudes and besides being able to produce crops of practically double the aggregate crop value and bulk of what he could raise on dry land, is in a position of the bond owner, whose securities are guaranteed by the government as compared with his less fortunate brother. In fifty years, I believe all Willamette Valley lands will have a regular artificial water supply where practicable.”

## GEORGE HOYT

Cashier of the Merchants National  
Bank of Portland, Oregon

“I had no idea of the magnitude of the work already accomplished and was much interested in the O. A. C. development work. The possibilities for creating wealth and employment for capital and labor has no limit.”

## ROBERT TUCKER

Attorney, of Portland, Oregon

“The success of this project, today admitted, marks an epoch in the history of the Willamette Valley. The meeting of the fathers at Champoeg, making the soil American, was the first step and the wedding of the water to this fertile land is the last link leading so the highest development of the valley.”

## C. D. MINTON

Of the Oregon Agriculturist

“Twenty years of study and six years of experimental work have proven to my mind not only the feasibility of irrigation in the gravelly lands of the Willamette Valley, but the necessity of it. With irrigation such as we have seen today, the producing qualities of the soil have been increased many fold.”

JOHN M. SCOTT

Assistant General Passenger Agent  
of the O. W. R. & N. Co.

"It is admitted irrigation is the salvation of large sections of our county. We have had an actual demonstration of this today. West Stayton leads. Let others follow."

B. S. JOSSELYN

President Portland Railway  
Light & Power Co.

"I am surprised at the phenomenal results obtained as shown by you in comparing side by side, corn, fruit and vegetables, grown with and without irrigation. My understanding is that water has been on this tract a little less than thirty days and the results are simply marvelous.

Your company is entitled to great credit for having started an institution of this kind in conjunction with the Oregon Agricultural College in demonstrating the results that can be obtained by systematic farming with plenty of water on the ground; and a great deal of good will be done, not only for the one million acres requiring water in the Willamette Valley, but for the entire State to the end that so-called arid regions may be made to blossom as the rose."

H. W. FRIES

Vice President of the Wakefield-Fries Co., of Portland

“The results shown would convince the most skeptical that irrigation would be a great blessing to the Willamette Valley.”

A. KING WILSON

Of Wilson & Neal  
Oswego, Ore.

“Irrigation will double the yield of crops produced in the Willamette Valley. I have lived in Oswego for over seven years and have irrigated a small tract of land, and from personal experience I know the worth of water:

“Little drops of water,  
On the grains of sand,  
Make a mighty difference,  
In the yield of land.”

A. KING WILSON

W. L. CRISSEY

Chief of the Inquiry Bureau of the  
Portland Commercial Club

"In doubled luxuriance of growth, even the weeds expressed their appreciation of this fortunate combination of mid-summer water and a soil suited to receiving it."

H. M. HALLER

Vice President and Manager  
Kelly-Clarke Company

"I have always believed that irrigation would pay well in the Willamette Valley, and since going over your project today, I am more firmly convinced than ever that with irrigation carried on in the proper manner the production of this part of the State will be increased many fold.

Your project is well started and in the short time that you have had water on the land the results have been marvelous. The land covered by your present project, I believe is well adapted for both large and small fruits and all kinds of vegetables. The entire district can be without question, developed into the finest kind of fruit and vegetable farms. The work of the State Agricultural College shows up exceedingly well and the intelligent way in which you have started this work. I feel sure it will be a success."

C. T. PRALL

Real Estate Dealer, of Portland

"I am a firm believer in the possibilities of irrigation in the Willamette Valley. What we have seen today confirms this belief. Ten years hence we will see a large part of the Valley under irrigation."

MARSHALL M. DANA

Of the Oregon Journal

"Recipe for Willamette Valley development:

Add to soil and climate;  
Know-how and Common  
Sense, People and Irrigation  
---Apply well, with energy."

## W. L. BENHAM

Constructor of the West Stayton  
Irrigation System

"The ingredients necessary for successful irrigation, *i. e.* water, drainage, climate, transportation and market, obtain in the Willamette Valley in a more perfect manner than is found in any other locality."

## C. C. CRAIG

Ex-Manager  
of the Home Telephone Co.  
Los Angeles, Cal.

"The project that we have visited is making history in the Willamette Valley.

A Valley whose soil is so fertile that with irrigation it will raise anything that grows in the temperate zone. Irrigated, it would no doubt support a population of 2,000,000 bountifully in this Valley.

Irrigation is the solution of the high cost of living as it will double the production of the wealth produced from the soil.

What more can be said of this project when we realize that it will cause the barren places to become fruitful, the desert to bloom and two blades of grass to grow where one grew before."

## H. C. CAMPBELL

President of the Oregon Wood  
Distilling Company

"I have no financial interest in the Willamette Valley Irrigated Land Company, but I regard the stupendous undertaking as one that is of great interest to the Willamette Valley. It will be a success and is the starting of a great enterprise that will add many millions of dollars to the wealth of the Valley. The promoters are benefactors of the 'first water.'"

## CHARLES B. MERRICK

Postmaster of Portland

"You are assuredly public benefactors in pointing the way to prosperity and happiness. The Union of the mountain moisture with the alluvial riches of the Willamette Valley, will be a monument that shall endure as long as water seeks its level.

No commercial project of the decade will be so prolific of results for the State. There is no higher object in commercial endeavor than to furnish the means whereby man can attain prosperity and contentment. You have everything for homeseekers; soil, climate, and water."

West Stayton, Marion County, Oregon, is situated 65 miles south of Portland on the Woodburn-Springfield line of the S. P. R. R. 14 miles south-east of Salem, 7 1-2 miles east of Turner. Results obtained this year (1911) show increased production from irrigation of from two to four times the crop on the same land without irrigation.

Our water-rights include 20,232 acres. The canal to the first unit of 1000 acres is in operation and almost completed to the second unit.



PART OF THE EXCURSION IN THE O. A. C. EXPERIMENT GROUNDS  
AT WEST STAYTON, ORE., AUG. 24, 1911



Hartman & Thompson

Chamber of Commerce Building

Portland, Oregon

Managers