

Idaho's New Great \$8,000,000 Irrigation Enterprise

GOLD was discovered in the Boise River valley, Idaho, in 1862, and during the succeeding 25 years over \$200,000,000 were taken out. A large evanescent population flocked to the valley although the nearest railroad was 200 miles away and everything had to be freighted in and out. But only one crop of gold could be garnered and the expectation was that when the pay-dirt had all been panned,

the valley of the Boise, like many other mining districts, would vanish from the map as a producing locality. Not so, however. The output of the valley today from its hundred or so thousand acres of splendidly irrigated land is fast approaching the profits realized from the mines during their best days. Certainly when the enormous irrigation works which are there being constructed by the government are completed the output of agriculture will contribute to the world's wealth every year and

for all time thereafter, an amount much greater than the annual products of the "Basin" diggings during their palmyest days, while the valley will support a population of at least 200,000 people.

The state of Idaho is larger than all New England, but it has less than two persons to the square mile. What it needs is water—the storage of the melting snows from its vast mountain ranges, which run riot to the Gulf of California every spring. Its climate is California every spring. Its climate is California every spring. Its climate is California every spring.

of the south of France and northern Italy. The Boise valley lies at an elevation of about 2,500 feet, and the lowest temperature during the year is but slightly under freezing.

In Boise valley as in California in the early days, the demand for food, and the exorbitant prices for vegetables and meat, induced some of the hardy Argonauts to break the rules of caste and engage in what was then considered the humblest of occupations, the growing of potatoes, cabbage and small fruits. With splendid markets, this industry prospered and grew, and when the placer miners were exhausted a thriving farming community remained to develop these permanent resources of the valley.

But little of the "Klondyke" of 1894 remains. Its disappointments and lavishing of its resources and reckless prodigality are things of the past. Today it is difficult to realize that this valley was one of the famous theaters where reckless and daring spirits were the principal actors and where only the fittest survived. Unlike many of the Klondykes which have had their day during the past 60 years this valley provided for its overflow, and the spirit of enterprise which prompted thousands to brave all dangers in the search of gold, found a field here for the exercise of surplus energy in the construction of canals and the reclamation of the lands in adjacent valleys.

Like the "Mormon" farmers, the early tillers of the Boise valley found irrigation necessary, and since the first crude efforts nearly \$2,000,000 have been expended in the construction of irrigation works, and more than 100,000 acres of land have been reclaimed. Substantial cities and towns have grown up, railroads cross the valley in every direction, and from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 have been added to the productive capital of the west. But the limit for private enterprise has been reached. The natural flow of the river has been fully utilized, and it is only by the construction of engineering works on a massive scale that the complete agricultural development of the country can take place. The only agency which can safely undertake this great work is the United States. With commendable enterprise the owners of land in the valley have harmonized all questions of conflicting water rights and are now preparing to co-operate heartily with the government in carrying forward what is termed the Payette-Boise project, the largest of the national reclamation works which has yet been approved by the secretary of the interior.

LARGER THAN THE SALT LAKE VALLEY.

The construction of this great system will require several years and entails the expenditure of nearly \$8,000,000. The area to be reclaimed is 370,000 acres, or more than twice the cultivated acreage of Rhode Island. The works consist of storage reservoirs on the headwaters of the Payette and Boise rivers, and in the Boise valley the building of gigantic dams on these two rivers and about 200 miles of main canals. The secretary has authorized the initial construction of a dam in Boise river, about 33 miles of main canal, and a reservoir which will be capable of storing water enough for the late irrigation of about 120,000 acres of land in Boise valley.

The bids were opened at Boise, Idaho, on Feb. 1, 1906, and the contracts provide for the expenditure by the United States of about \$1,000,000. The Boise valley now has a population of about 20,000. It contains 50 per cent more irrigable land and has a more favorable climate than the great Salt Lake valley of Utah, which today sustains a population of about 150,000.

BIDS ON FIRST UNIT.

They Were Opened at Boise on Thursday and Competition Was Keen. Special Correspondence.

BOISE, Feb. 2.—There was an important meeting here yesterday afternoon at which bids were opened for the construction of the first unit of the government's immense \$8,000,000 irrigation scheme known as the Boise-Payette

project. The meeting was held at the office of Supervising Engineer D. W. Ross, and many bidders were present either in person or by agent. The bids were close and the competition keen. The work was divided into seven sections as follows:

Section No. 1—Dam in river.
Section No. 2—Canal work from dam to Indian creek.
Section No. 3—Canal from end of section No. 2 to Bear Flat reservoir.
Section No. 4—Structural work, including bridges, culverts, etc.
Section No. 5—Upper embankment of reservoir.
Section No. 6—Lower embankment of reservoir.
Section No. 7—Gates and other work of that character.

FIRST SECTION BIDS.

Four bids were made for the first section of work as follows: P. McDonnell,

Duluth, Minn., \$159,950; Bates & Rogers, Construction company, Chicago, \$185,950; Faris & Kessel, Boise, \$194,625; Utah Fire Proofing company, Salt Lake, \$158,950.

But one bid was submitted for section No. 2, that of Hubbard & Carlson, Boise, \$227,125.

On section No. 3 there were three contestants, as follows: Hubbard & Carlson, Boise, \$100,340; Conway & Wilhite, Star, \$95,400; Page & Brinton, Salt Lake, \$103,460.

Section No. 4 had two bidders for the contract Faris & Kessel, Boise, at \$70,562.50; Page & Brinton, \$48,855.

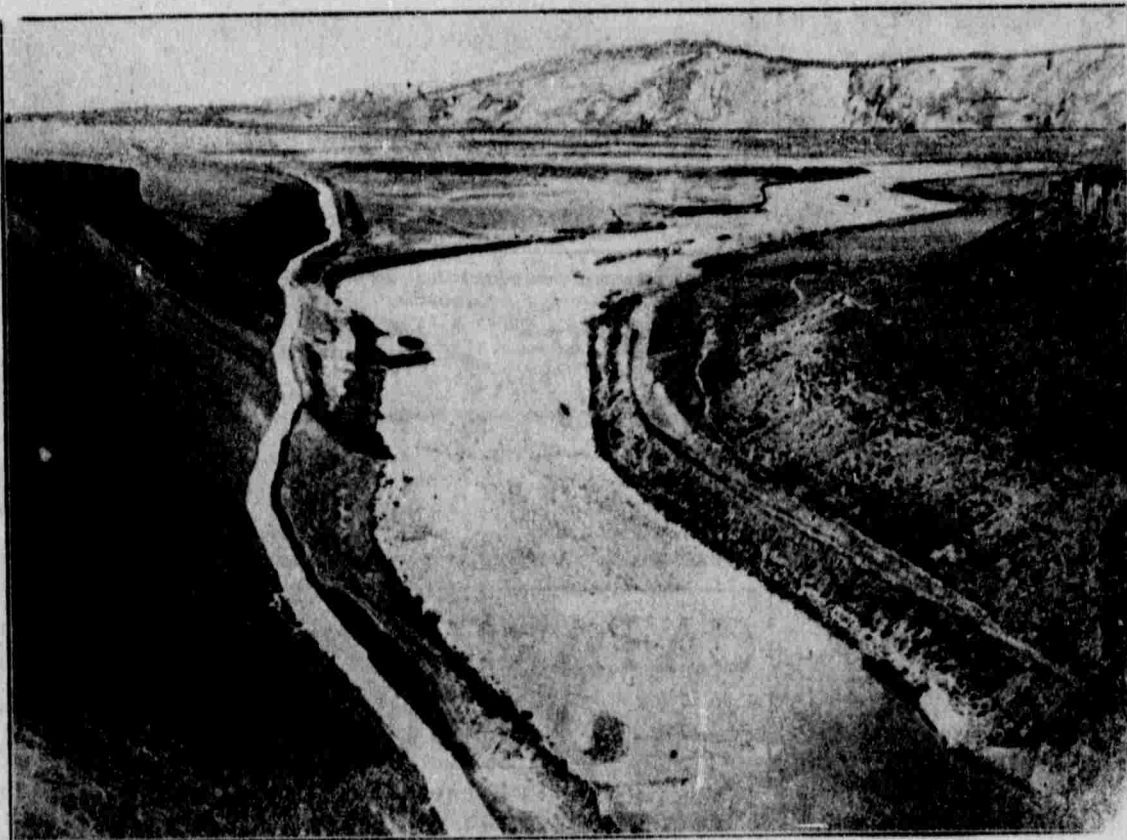
For section No. 5 P. McDonnell bid \$282,150; Faris & Kessel, \$411,250; Hubbard & Carlson, \$389,950.

For section No. 6 P. McDonnell bid (A) \$306,175, (B) \$120,475; Faris & Kessel, (A) \$333,500, (B) \$149,500; Hubbard & Carlson, (A) \$258,550; Page & Brinton, (A) \$323,000, (B) \$120,800; Lament & Stange, Salt Lake, (B) \$341,200.

Eight contractors submitted bids for section No. 7 as follows: Page & Brinton, \$25,900; Monard Engineering company, New York, \$16,846 and \$17,398; New Jersey Foundry & Machine company, Newark, \$17,715 and \$18,535; United Iron Works, Oakland, \$15,445; Coldwell, Wilcox & Co., Newark, \$21,022; Chapman Valve company, Indian Orchard, Mass., \$12,928; Conden Iron works, Camden, N. J., \$22,230 and \$23,230; N. P. Norris, Philadelphia, \$32,020.

UNDER GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE.

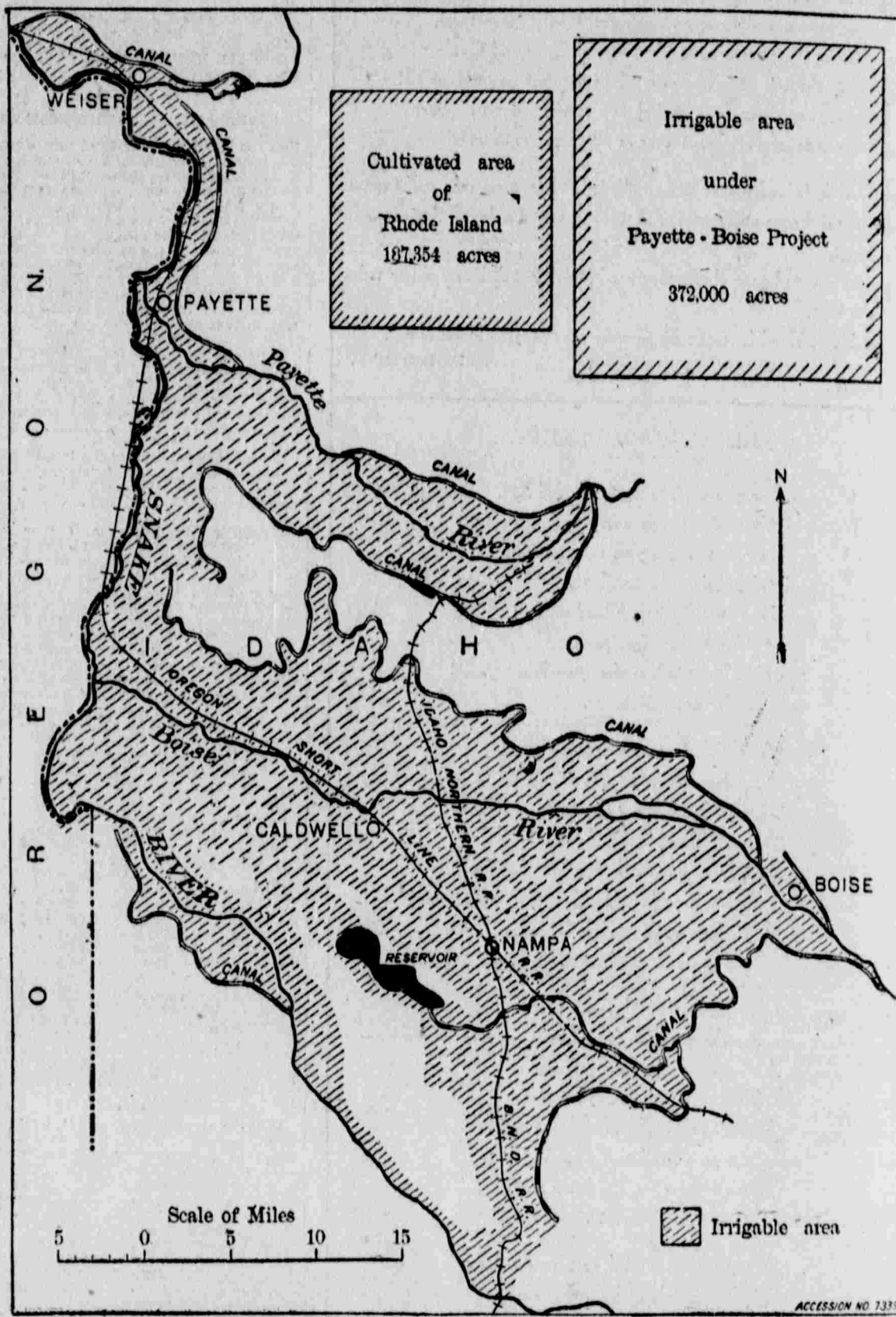
Addition of the different sections of this unit will make the work cost \$1,377,558, whereas the estimate of the secretary of the interior was \$1,300,000. The bids will at once be tabulated and sent to Washington officials for approval, after which work will be commenced upon what will be one of the highest projects of the kind that the government has yet undertaken.



NEW YORK CANAL AND BOISE RIVER IN PARALLEL.



SAMPLE OF IDAHO DESERT TO BE RECLAIMED.



PAYETTE-BOISE U. S. RECLAMATION PROJECT IDAHO

MOON AND WEATHER.

And How the Lunar Changes are Utilized by Almanac Makers.

NEARLY all countries have had their almanacs, but they were particularly popular in Germany and England. In America, probably, the almanac has been more widely read and its weather forecasts more generally credited than any other. Yet the weather predictions appearing in it were based entirely upon the time of day the moon entered into any one of her four quarters. For instance, if this happened between midnight and 2 a. m. it indicated fair weather in summer, and fair with hard frost in winter, unless the wind be south or southwest. While, on the other hand, if this change occurred between noon and 2 p. m. it indicated very rainy weather in summer, and rain or snow in winter. And so a table, claimed to be constructed on a due consideration of the attraction of the sun and moon in their several positions respecting earth, was prepared for all the hours, and thus was weather forecasting simplified and made easy.

The full moon has usually been associated with clear, cold weather. This is probably because we notice the full moon so much more when the weather is clear, and also clear nights are cooler on account of more rapid radiation of the earth's heat than when blanketed with clouds. Also since the

moon's path on the heavens is so near the ecliptic, and full moons are always 180 degrees from the sun, they are far north in the winter and thus longer above the horizon in the northern hemisphere than they are in summer, and thus we associate full moons with our long, cold, winter nights.

So much for the moon as a weather forecaster. Let us take a look into the planetary theories.

Along with astronomy, which had its beginning away back in history among the Chaldeans, the Chinese and the Egyptians, there grew up the art of astrology. Egypt was a particularly rich field for this art. Astrologers not only professed to tell the future weather and the seasonal conditions from the relative positions of the planets, and the sun, moon and constellation in the heavens, but could foretell the results of all human endeavors and desires. They could read the future of the individual and the state. Astrological predictions, however, could not stand the light of education and modern scientific knowledge, and we could hardly say that in the twentieth century, in educated countries, they have any credence whatever. Yet the predictions of our day so-called long-range forecasts, based upon their planetary theories, have as little foundation in demonstrated facts as did those of the astrologers.—Popular Science Monthly.

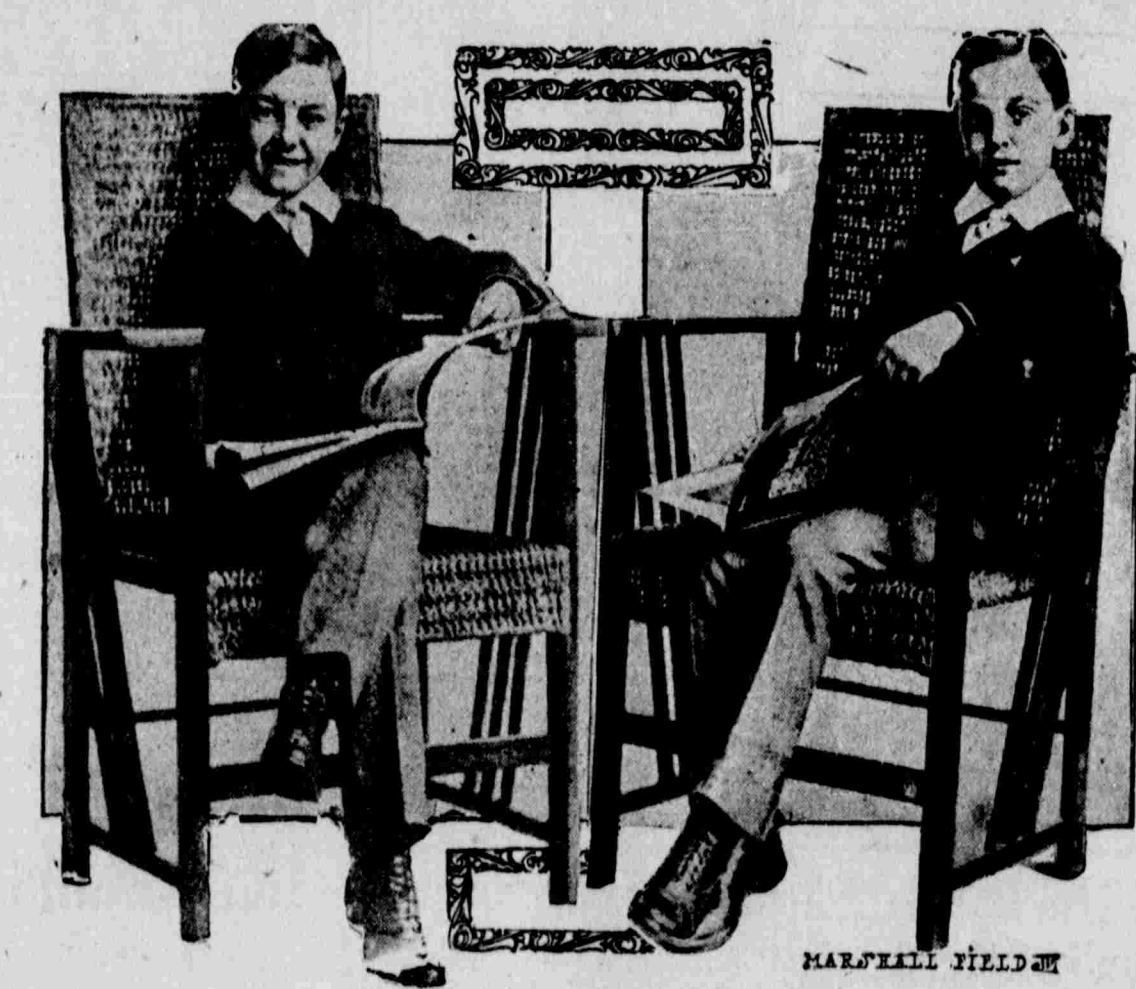
FIGHT WITH A WHALE

Steamer Has an Exciting Experience With Monster of the Deep.

TO THOSE insured to the dangers of whale hunting there is nothing more exciting than an encounter with a hump-back, when he shows fight. Though considerably smaller and incidentally of less value than the sulphur bottom, yet he is the gamest leviathan of the two, and when wounded it is dangerous for man or craft to be at too close range. To landmen there is great excitement connected with every whale hunt, but at times the work of killing is done so expeditiously and swiftly that only in the size of the animal captured is there any special interest manifested. But in the case of the steam whaler, Orion, now operating out of this port, where the onslaught on whales is almost continuous, there are always instances where

the judgment of those engaged in the pursuit is put to a severe test. An experience of the kind was successfully passed through a few days ago off the coast of Vancouver island.

The Orion was out on one of her daily excursions, when a humpback was sighted and followed. The Orion was kept well off—she never got closer than 15 fathoms—and when the sea monster, which first betrays its presence by spouting, reared its back well above the surface, the gunner fired. The first shot only roused the monster's anger. It ran for a considerable distance, and then stopped, occasionally rolling over and over. It pursued these tactics until the gunner fired once more. Usually the second shot accomplishes its deadly work, but in this case the explosion of the bomb did not kill outright, and there was an exciting struggle for a time, which was ended with the lance



THE TWO GRANDSONS OF MARSHALL FIELD WHO ARE JOINT HEIRS, WITH SISTER, TO \$150,000,000.

By the provisions of the will of the late Marshall Field, the three grandchildren of the Chicago dry goods merchant take front rank among the several multimillionaire children of America. The children's names and ages are: Marshall Field III, twelve years of age; Henry Fields, age nine, and Gwendolyn Field, four years old.

having to be freely used. The injured whale worked his flippers viciously, and slashed the waters into foam, the blood in the meantime flowing profusely from the great gaping wounds in his back, but he fought bravely to the end, time and time again charging for the steamer, but always meeting a counter-move that frustrated his intent. During this time the steamer had to be carefully handled and kept out of the way, for one blow from the whale would have rendered very serious damage. The whale was badly injured, and the Orion's navigator, knowing full well the strength of his game, waited until that strength ebbed before adding the finishing touches.

Excepting Sundays the Orion has been

ITCH—RINGWORM.

E. T. Lucas, Wingo, Ky., writes, April 25th, 1902: "For 10 to 12 years I had been afflicted with a malady known as the 'itch.' The itching was most unbearable. I had tried for years to find relief, having tried all remedies I could hear of, besides a number of doctors. I wish to state that one single application of Ballard's Snow Liniment cured me completely and permanently. Since then I have used the liniment on two separate occasions for the ring worm and it cured completely. See size and \$1.00 bottle. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112-114 South Main Street. B.

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