

Irrigation Achievements in The State of Idaho

By Heber Q. Hale.

WHAT is, was not; what was, is not! What wonders one decade hath wrought!

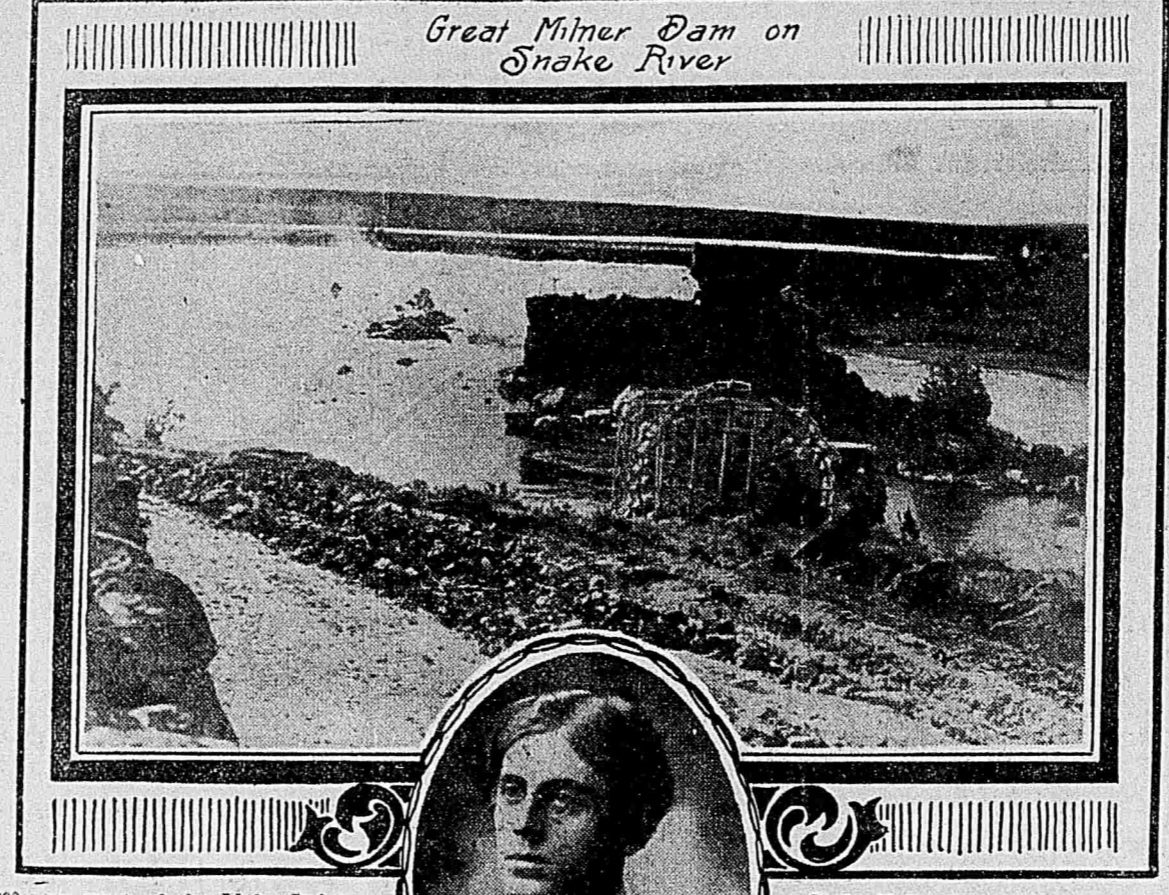
practically ignores the purpose of its creation, namely, perpetuation of its specie. If this extra supply of water comes to the farmer of the rain belt, he is helpless, his crop will be either over or under.

ADVANTAGES OF IRRIGATION.

It is pointed out that soil, sunshine and water are the three elements absolutely necessary to plant life. It stands to reason that, other conditions being equal, plants thrive best under a maximum amount of sun-

IDAHO STANDS UPON MERIT.

Idaho, standing as she does in the forefront of the irrigation world, stands out before the world on her merit, claiming to have justly earned the distinction to which she has attained. She looks back but a few years to her infancy. Less than a half-century ago she was not on the map of the United States.



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150,000-acre tract of the Idaho Irrigation company, 30,000 acres of which segregation are already disposed of, though the water will not be ready for delivery before next year.



Twin Falls Goose Creek project 50,000 Total 1,487,703 Adding thereto the Minidoka government project 150,000 Gives a grand total of 1,637,703

TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE IRRIGATION STATISTICS OF IDAHO AND SISTER STATES.

Table with columns for States, Government Rec. Project, Carey Act Projects, Total Acreage, Average Cost of Water per Acre, Total Acreage Irrigated, and Average Cost per Acre of Farm Land.

The figures used above for states other than Idaho are for the year 1907.

The varying results obtained in different localities depend upon the quantity, quality and proportion, respectively, of soil, sunshine and water, and their intelligent handling by the farmer.

THE USE OF WATER.

Every farmer knows that an abundance of rain or excessive irrigation produces large thrifty stalks of wheat.

The story of the development of irrigation in this state is an interesting one. In 1905 the first "Carey act" project was opened in Idaho—the great South Side Twin Falls tract.

The Twin Falls North Side canal (Lincoln project) is now nearing completion and will be ready to furnish water by May 1, next year.

LIST OF IDAHO IRRIGATION PROJECTS UNDER THE CAREY ACT

Table listing irrigation projects with columns for Name of company and address, Acres, Total Acreage, and Price per acre.

The 11 projects last named above are not yet open to settlement, segregation for the most of which has not been made, nor the contracts fully closed with the state land board.

es its already enormous dimensions by 600,000 acres. The project, however, is only in its infancy; but it is considered a feasible one and will undoubtedly be put through.

Calling attention to the Mullin's canal near Bliss on the railroad, which covers 6,328 acres, over 1,000 acres of which have been settled upon, one passes along up the river to American Falls, where an irrigation scheme, under the name of the redemption of 57,341 acres of farm land, which is fast being converted into living and growing fields.

Passing on, then westward, over the great Twin Falls tract, one comes to another "Carey act" project which, in extent, is the most stupendous of all—the Twin Falls-Bruneau. It joins this immense area on the west and increases

its already enormous dimensions by 600,000 acres. The project, however, is only in its infancy; but it is considered a feasible one and will undoubtedly be put through.

Summing up the acreage of this immense contiguous area, we have the following: Twin Falls Land and Water company 235,000 Twin Falls North Side Land and Water Co 180,000 Idaho Irrigation company 150,000 Kings Hill Irrigation & Power company 12,000 Mullins Canal company 6,328 American Falls Canal & Power company 57,241 Twin Falls-Salmon River Land and Water Co 50,000 West End Twin Falls Irrigation Co 50,000 Twin Falls Bruneau Land and Water Co 600,000 Owyhee Irrigation project 3,234 The Owyhee Land and Irrigation Co 30,709 Grandview Snake River Irrigation Co 3,000 Twin Falls Clover Creek project 45,000

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The foregoing will give an idea of what Idaho is doing on a large scale in the line of irrigation, both under the "Carey" and "Reclamation" acts, and the demand there is for Idaho lands and the eagerness with which these districts in the world. It's dimensions will increase year by year.

Being a man of the keenest business judgment, Mr. Van Tassel looked well into the future and he has made a splendid success of his business from its inception.

The Steady Growth of Sugar City

SUGAR CITY, a flourishing town of 1,000 inhabitants, is located in the heart of the upper Snake river valley, 30 miles from Idaho Falls.

It is the feeling of so many of the sheep that makes the price of hay and grain. Besides the above mentioned enterprises there are in this town, one bank, two merchandise stores, a drug store, a printing office, a harness shop, tin and iron shop, carpenter shop, electric theater, gymnasium, butcher shop, two barber shops, photograph gallery, blacksmith and tinsmith shops and builders, one brick and stone mason, and an up-to-date opera house.

used for the raising of grain and beets by a railroad track that section. The residents here are quite anxious to learn news of the road, as it will mean more business for this section of the country.

It is marvelous the growth she has reached. The buildings are all up-to-date and the dwellings compare favorably with towns much larger than this.

One of the largest of the Utah-Idaho Sugar company's factories is located at this point, and has done much to up-build this particular locality and has brought much money and labor to it.

The schools are spoken of with pride by every citizen, not only of this town but all of Fremont county. The large stone school building was built in 1907, and is up-to-date in every particular.

Handsomeness of the building at Sugar City. The building is a two-story structure with a prominent central tower and classical architectural details.

At a recent meeting of the Austrian Miners' association an interesting lecture was delivered concerning an invention by Engineer Otto Süsser to carry liquid air in the form of a solid.

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THE "CAREY ACT"

The "Carey Act" which derives its name from United States Senator Carey of Wyoming, is a provision of law under which capitalists, or any individual or corporation, are permitted to enter into an agreement with the state for the provision of water for a given tract of land; the cost of the construction of the irrigation works is prorated to the acreage covered by the system.

IDAHO AND SISTER STATES.

In all, Idaho has about 1,650 separate irrigation canals; she has 24 "Carey Act" projects, covering 1,726,548 acres, and two government "Reclamation" projects, reclaiming 522,000 acres.

THE "RECLAMATION" ACT.

With the "Carey act" has come a companion quite as beneficial, though slower in progress—the "Reclamation act" the execution of the provisions of this act are wholly within the hands of the reclamation service of the United States, which constructs the irrigation works similar to the provisions of the "Carey act" letting the settlers have the water at actual cost.

TABLES EXPLAINED.

Accompanying this article is a table showing all the irrigation companies operating under the provisions of the "Carey Act," both those in full operation and those in the process of development, with the total acreage in each segregation, the percentage open to settlement and the cost of water rights an acre. Also another table showing by counties the total acreage in the state under canal systems, the acreage now being irrigated, the length of canals and the cost of construction.

THE "LAND OF OPPORTUNITY."

Aside from the 1,171,128 acres of "Carey" land available for settlement in Idaho, there are approximately 2,000,000 acres of state land, including sections 16 and 36 in every township and other lieu lands, for which the irrigation companies must furnish water, and which can be purchased at public auction for a price not less than \$10 per acre, but which are not included in the total acreage above given. Then, there are numerous private irrigation concerns, under which state and government lands are located; so that in order to make the total above given cover the future of Idaho, and making her the state of tomorrow—the great home-builder—the "Land of Opportunity."

TABLE SHOWING IDAHO'S IRRIGATED LANDS, WITH LENGTH OF CANALS AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION.

Table with columns for Counties, Total acreage under canal systems, Acreage actually irrigated, Length of canals, and Cost of Construction.

It should be noted that the following counties are situated in the humid part of the state where the precipitation is for the most part sufficient for the development of crops, to wit: Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Latah, Nez Perce and Blaine. The agriculture is not carried on in Shoshone county, it being wholly devoted to mining.

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LARGE ESTABLISHMENT.

One of the largest establishments in the Snake River valley which enjoys the fullest confidence among its patrons is the Sugar City store, which is one of the newest in the city, and the goods carried are always kept up-to-date.

BIG PUBLIC TELESCOPE.

The only genuinely public observatory in the world is at Zurich, Switzerland. It is open every evening to the public, and during the last month was visited by more than 25,000 people.

SURE DEATH TO MOTHS.

There was a suburban lady whose house one summer was quite overrun with moths. A tramp told her that in return for a square meal he would give her an infallible moth cure.

IN MEMORIAM.

"I suppose you carry a memento of some sort in that pocket," said the man. "Yes, it's a lock of my husband's hair."