

The situation is intolerable to free-men. The people, through us, their chosen but helpless representatives, demand relief. The office-holders, their patrons, those who fatten upon the degradation and misfortune of our people, all the hordes of the beneficiaries of the present system will resist the appeal.

Your memorialists, however, confidently relying upon the justice of the representatives of the American people, ask the Congress of the United States to enact into a law, as a measure which will afford immediate relief, the bill introduced into the Senate by Senator Faulkner and in the House of Representatives by Delegate Caine, "For the local government of Utah Territory, and to provide for the election of certain officers in said Territory."

Your memorialists further ask, that, as all essential conditions exist entitling Utah to admission into the Union as a State, and that as soon as your honorable body is satisfied of this fact, a law may at once be enacted permitting her to take the position for which she is so eminently fitted.

And your memorialists will ever pray, etc.

IRRIGATION MEMORIAL.

The following memorial, drafted by the committee whose names are hereunto attached, has been presented in the United States Senate by Senator Sanders of Montana:

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled:

Your memorialists represent that in pursuance of a call issued by the Hon. Arthur L. Thomas, Governor of Utah, for a convention "to consider matters pertaining to the reclamation of the arid public lands of the West," the Irrigation Congress met at Salt Lake City on September 15, 1891, and remained in session for three days. There were delegates in attendance from the States of California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Wyoming, and the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, and the body was in a notable degree representative of that large section of the Union in which the rainfall is inadequate for the purposes of agriculture.

The sense of the congress was embodied in the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this congress is in favor of granting in trust, upon such conditions as shall serve the public interest, to the States and Territories needful of irrigation, all lands now a part of the public domain within such States and Territories, excepting mineral lands, for the purpose of developing irrigation, to render the lands now arid fertile and capable of supporting a population.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the committee selected to prepare and present to Congress the memorial of this convention respecting public lands, should ask as a preliminary to the cession of all the land in the Territories in accordance with the resolutions of the convention, a liberal grant to said Territories and to the States to be formed therefrom, of the public lands to be devoted to public school purposes.

Whereas, Large areas of arid lands and semi arid lands, situated upon the great plains in the Dakotas, western Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, were settled upon

in good faith by home seekers, under the supposition that they were entering agricultural lands, and

Whereas, The settlers upon such lands have expended much time and labor upon the same, and paid into the United States treasury therefore many millions of dollars, only to discover that irrigation to a greater or less extent, is necessary in making homes for themselves thereon. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the representatives of all of the States and Territories directly concerned in irrigation, do hereby pledge their unwavering support to the just demands of such settlers, that the general government shall donate at least a portion of the funds received from the sale of such lands toward the procurement of the means necessary for their irrigation.

Resolved, That this Congress heartily endorse the irrigation work of the Agricultural Department of the National government in the collection and dissemination of information, especially its admirable progress reports covering the whole field of irrigation development, and that it favors large appropriations for this work hereafter.

It is submitted that the considerations in support of the request expressed in the first of the above resolutions are of a very cogent character. It is undeniably true that the general government has nearly reached the limit of its capacity to provide homes for settlers upon the public domain. The tracts now remaining are almost wholly such as can not be sold or otherwise disposed of under the liberal provisions of our land laws. Referring to the area embraced in the terms of the resolution, the condition is found to be that lands

SUSCEPTIBLE OF IRRIGATION

at a practicable cost are occupied, and that those which are still subject to entry can only be fitted for cultivation by systems of canals, reservoirs or artesian wells, involving expenditures quite beyond the resources of individual settlers.

The topography and other physical conditions that must be overcome in the work of utilizing water for the purposes of agriculture are not widely understood. The ultimate sources of the streams that provide the only available water supply are the snows that are deposited on the mountain tops and in deep recesses of the canyons. In the spring these snows melt rapidly and form raging torrents that cut deep channels in their pathway. Thus when they enter the valleys they are far below the levels of the lands which they are to reclaim. This condition renders it necessary to fix the point of diversion

FAR UP THE CANYON

upon the rocky mountain sides, and to construct canals and flumes to conduct the water at the required height to be delivered upon the successive benches that lie below.

The waste of water before the season of irrigation commences is another potent factor of expense. In the spring the flow of water is the largest, for obvious reasons, and then vast volumes run to waste. Later, the supply decreases and is the least when most needed for the nourishment of growing crops. To prevent this the only efficient remedy is to impound the water in large storage reservoirs, which can only be constructed at an enormous cost.

It is not to be assumed that because

the reclamation of the arid region involves the expenditure of large sums of money, it is therefore impracticable. On the contrary, it can be fully justified as a business enterprise. Compare the yield in agricultural products of lands cultivated with the aid of irrigation with the yield of lands that are watered by the natural rainfall, and the difference will be found to be from fifty to one hundred per cent. in favor of the former. Land that is now wholly unproductive, upon being provided with facilities for irrigation, immediately attains a value of from ten to fifty dollars an acre, the difference being due to location, accessibility to markets, and other manifest conditions. It may be questioned whether the country affords a more inviting field for the investment of capital than that which is here presented.

We feel warranted in assuming that the general government will pursue no policy respecting the arid lands of the public domain that will not assist in their reclamation and the development of their possibilities in affording

HOMES TO SETTLERS,

increasing the food supply for the people and contributing to the general wealth. The question remains whether Congress will undertake the work by direct appropriations from the Treasury sufficient for the prompt construction of the required systems of irrigation. There has been some agitation of the subject for several years past without further results than the appropriation of \$350,000 and its expenditure in topographical surveys. It is not manifest that these have materially advanced the solution of the practical problems of irrigation; at all events the rate of progress forbids the hope of any substantial results within a reasonable period. So far as we can infer the disposition of the general Government from its previous action, the answer to the above question must be in the negative. Neither is it certain that it would be practicable for Congress to pass a general law that would operate justly and sufficiently upon all parts of the arid belt. Not only do the physical conditions vary in the different sections, but the laws governing the appropriation and use of water are radically different in adjoining States. Wyoming differs in both from Montana and Idaho, and Colorado from Utah and New Mexico; yet it is of primary importance that legislation designed to promote the reclamation of

THESE LANDS SHOULD

recognize and adjust itself to all of these differences.

The only alternative course seems to be that which is recommended in the resolutions of the Congress, viz.: "The granting in trust upon such conditions as shall serve the public interest, to the States and Territories, excepting mineral lands, for the purpose of developing irrigation, to render the lands now arid fertile and capable of supporting a population." We feel assured that such action would be promptly followed by the inauguration and vigorous prosecution of enterprises for the reclamation of those lands, either by the States and Territories themselves or through the agency of municipalities erected for the purpose with power to borrow money upon the