AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

Matters Relating to Water Right, Irrigation and Agriculture.

Discussion Before the Convention Committee, Who Are Devoting to It Exhaustive Consideration.

By special invitation of the committee on agriculture, etc., a portion of the irrigation convention for Utah appeared before them on March 15th, 1895, and by request of Chairman Hudson of the committee the News gives that portion of the proceedings which is of public interest.

The meeting opened with the following remarks delivered by the secretary of the irrigation committee:

I am requested by your chairman to give you some of the reasons which actuated the Utah Irrigation convention in their suggestions to your honorable body concerning irrigation principles in our Constitution.

Early after their assembling at this place that is, the acceptance of the offer of the committee they discovered the great discrepancies existing in the various laws of almost every state in arid irrigating region, and with a desire to provide for Utah such constitutional provisions as would meet the existing conditions, they gave the subject some considerable study and finally adopted a resolution to present to the Convention, what is known as the Wyoming resolution.

This having withstood all the assaults of the past fifty years, has been considered as a model, and is being very generally adopted by other states of the arid region in their endeavor to secure, for the users of water having in their original possession they found the owner or later some declaration of that kind was absolutely essential.

The object is to secure to Utah such constitutional provisions as will prevent future partisan legislation in the north, which may be detrimental to the southern portion.

I will here interpolate, gentlemen, and state that great experience of legislation of surrounding states have shown that owing to the very sore lack of constitutional provisions such measures have not benefited in the duty to those with the which is predicated but uncertainty, and without going into much detail I may mention that to the then staff of the new states of the West are solving from bad to worse.

As secretary of the committee I can well preface my statement by saying that according to we all in the chairman of the men composing the committee, that other absolutely of their suggesting anything but what they deemed wrote to be the best interest of all our people, is apparent. When I give to you the minutes of this committee, gentlemen, I think you will come to the conclusion that unanimously.

For instance it has the honorable gentleman who sits here close to, Judge L. W. Shurtliff, whom I believe you all know very well, he is a member of the national executive committee of the Irrigation Congress; the Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon is a gentleman sufficiently well known in this Territory, and who was a national delegate; Col. F. H. Holloway, of Beaver, I believe most of you have heard of already as being one of those who is putting to very large works to the Territory in the vicinity of Beaver; Mr. C. H. Wattson, of Salt Lake City, is a gentleman well known in his connection with the city government of Salt Lake and in connection with real estate affairs; and Mr. W. H. Howe, who has charge of the big works near Cutler; these gentlemen compose this committee, and I would be, as I stated before, most ungrateful for me to think that any one of them would mention anything to your honorable body that would be to the slightest way detrimental.

As my minutes the meeting will, by request, be confined to the first section of the proposed amendment, I would request that at some subsequent time we may have opportunity of explaining the remainder the other provisions, and further, should I not make myself clear to any of my remarks, of course anything that your honorable body would further request that any of all of your committee present such questions as you desire, and I will endeavor to answer them to the best of my ability, as I know the gentlemen representing the committee here certainly will do equally so.

It is perhaps well that the suggestions which we have presented to print for the consideration of the Convention have been questioned as to their wisdom, since brings about a better understanding of the whole subject may be arrived at.

Now when the Utah irrigation commission transmitted to your honorable body a similar statement of what their objects will promote the best interests of the state of Utah in the matter of irrigation rights, they were somewhat surprised to find their suggestions misconstrued. Even a glance at the laws of the United States and the statement of our Territory, shows that complete misapprehension of the land law of the law exists. The statute relating to the acquisition of water is that it is proper that all ownership of waters now vested in or acquired by the United States within the Territory of Utah shall be vested and controlled by Utah itself when it becomes a state.

All vested rights are respected by the laws of the Federal government in the new State of Utah. Further, it might be well for me to say, that it is now proposed in the consideration of the two states of the West, as to a constitutional basis for new states governing water within the arid region. Placing within State control the interests of our people has always been one of Utah's cardinal tenets.

During the last fifty years Utah has made irrigation history quite rapidly, not only that, but it has proved to the others where that it is capable and has been capable as a Territory of maintaining practically its own affairs. It seems to my honorable, a fundamental principle of our people that may not only claim to manage and take care of that which is most important to them, that they have proved to be the world, that they are capable of doing it, and when they propose to take rank in the sisting State that wishes to have vested in the United States, it is asking more than right that they should have their destinies to meet and as the men that claim and be to transfer to it as has been in the other twenty-one states.

Water, of all the securities of this Territory, seems to belong to the people of all our people, merely as water rights anybody and everybody

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