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IRRIGATION MEMORIAL

Pertaining to the Reclamation of Arid Public Lands.

THE DOCUMENT IN FULL

As Presented in the United States Senate.—Cession of Territorial Lands Asked.

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 resumed its 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 reclaim 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 such a preliminary to the cession of all the land in the Territories in accordance with the resolutions of the convention, a liberal grant to each Territory 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 securing 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 therefrom 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 unswerving support to the just demands of such settlers, that the general government shall dispose at least a portion of the lands reserved from the sale of such lands toward the procurement of the means necessary for their irrigation.

Resolved, That this Congress heartily endorses the irrigation work of the Agricultural Department of the National government in the collection and dissemination of information, especially in all suitable 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 without doubt such as can not be sold or otherwise disposed of under the liberal provisions of our land laws. Referring to the aims embodied 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 filled for purposes 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 purpose of agriculture are well known to the memorialists. 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 irrigate. This condition renders it necessary to fix the point of diversion

FAR UP THE CANYON

upon the rocky mountain sides, and to construct long canals and flumes to convey 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 differences 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 obtains 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 an 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 $100,000 and its expenditure in geographical 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 reclaim 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 these lands, either by the States and Territories themselves or through the agency of municipalities created for the purpose with power to borrow money to aid the security of the works and the reclaimed lands.

A precedent for the policy proposed is not wanting. Congress ceded to the States in the

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

and other sections of the Union the swamp lands within their respective limits. The purpose of this action was to promote their reclamation, and it found its support in the knowledge that a considerable expense would be involved in fitting them for cultivation. Such is the condition of the arid lands, with this difference, that

THE PROBLEM OF RECLAMATION

is infinitely more difficult than that of draining the swamp lands, and also that the swamp lands in any one State were of comparatively little value and of no slight concern to the public that they were liable to maladministration; whereas, in the case of arid lands, as soon as they come to be the control of the State they will at once become the most prominent question in state politics, and of no great and immediate interest to its citizens that their administration will be conducted under the surveillance of a deeply concerned people, which will permit of no chicanery. In principle, the cession of the

SWAMP LANDS

to the States affords a perfect precedent for such action as we are seeking at the hands of your honorable body.

The importance of our pastoral interests makes it necessary that provision be made for the protection and utilization of the grazing land in connection with the contiguous irrigable areas. To the grazing lands are distinguished from the agricultural lands belonging those vast areas of elevated table and bench lands and the high, rolling divides which lie upon the summits and along the slopes of the watersheds; and they comprise three-fourths of the arid domain. They never can be made the self-supporting habitations of man, because they are too elevated and too vast in extent to be irrigated, but they furnish a valuable component to the lands reclaimed, the first supplying the summer's and the second the winter's food supply.

Adequate provision for securing possession or management of these lands, for the sole purpose to which they are adapted, has never been attempted by Congress, and the question is of such magnitude and importance in connection with the subject of

FARMING BY IRRIGATION

in the region where grazing lands abound, that a great impetus will be given to irrigation if such States as may see fit to adopt that policy are placed in a position to encourage settlement by attaching to the land capable of being reclaimed a larger contiguous tract of grazing land. It will make more valuable the irrigable areas and supply the settler with an important source of income by adding the business of stock raising to that of the farmer.

No mention is made in the resolutions of the Congress of the preservation of the forests, but the subject is so intimately associated with that of irrigation to be diverted. The pine-forest trees, such as constitute the timber growth on the mountains and elevated plateaus of the West, are exceedingly inflammable, and when fire is once communicated in them a vast destruction of values ensues. The loss from this cause measured by the

STUMPAGE VALUE

of the timber alone, may be estimated without extravagance at $100,000 per year. The Federal government has made some efforts to arrest the destruction, but wholly without success. It is from the Territories, or local agencies created by the States, that protection must be sought. To the soldiers the preservation of the forests is a matter of grave importance. They are dependent upon them for fuel, fencing and building material, but this is by no means the limit of their interest. The forests on the mountain tops are the chief conservators of the water that is to irrigate the valleys below. With their destruction the reclamation of the arid land ceases to be a problem and becomes an impossibility. An efficient and just system of

PRESERVING THE FORESTS

from destruction by fire and applying them, under proper restrictions, to the use of the settlers, can not be otherwise provided and administered by the States.

The second of the above resolutions addresses itself to a subject that can not fail to commend itself to your favorable consideration. It is incontrovertible that Congress will make any disposition of the public domain without first securing to the Territories that which inured for the support of public school. The arbitrary selection by law of the sections dedicated to this purpose operates as a great injustice to the Territories in the arid region. By far the greater number of the school sections are located on mountain tops or other places where they cannot be cultivated, and it follows that nothing can be realized from their sale. The liberal policies of the government, dating back to the passage of the great ordinance of 1787, in all but particular

TO THE EDUCATION

of our youth forbids the thought that any discrimination will be exercised against the newer portions of the Union, or that they shall be less than equal sharers in its bounty. The petition embodied in the resolution is simply an appeal for justice. The conditions of settlers on lands with a the semi-arid belt was left to call urgently for relief at your hands. Thousands of people have settled within the area of the Union upon the assurance officially extended by the government that they were "agricultural," which was naturally presumed to mean that they were capable of producing crops by the usual method of agriculture. They have found that the rainfall is highly uncertain in quantity and seasonable ness, and that year after year the labors which they have bestowed upon their fields have been expended in vain. The consequences have been most deplorable. Without fault on their own part, settling only upon the impulse that has been

THE CHIEF FACTOR

in expanding the domain of civilization, they now find themselves and their families confronted with actual destitution. The government sold to them the lands that they now occupy at as low prices and upon no other terms than such as obtained in more favored localities; and it has received from them, in many instances, as much as ten times the purchase price. We submit that the circumstances eloquently support their prayer for relief, and that the government must properly devote a portion of the money which they have themselves contributed to the work of developing and applying the water supply that is needed to make these lands habitable and productive.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound will ever pray, etc.

ALEX. BOREIN, Chairman, Montana;
A. D. FOOTE, Secretary, Idaho;
C. C. WRIGHT, California;
FRANK HOOD, Wyoming;
J. H. ABBOTT, Nebraska;
H. H. HOLDEN, Montana;
C. W. IRWIN, Nevada;
PLATE BOGGESS, Colorado;
W. H. King, Utah;
J. J. TOMPKINS, Washington;
D. H. WIGGINS, New Mexico;
Of the Committee on Memorial.

CARE FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Neither a piano nor an organ should be left open at night, or habitually open not in use. The changes of temperature are very hurtful to the tone of any instrument, and especially the gathering of dampness, which not only interferes with the tone and quality of the strings and reeds, but is very likely seriously to affect the works. Pianos in particular should be kept in as even a temperature as possible, since they are much affected by changes of temperature, and dryness and moisture; if they exposed they require very frequent tuning, and are not satisfactory in action or tone. Care is also equally desirable in regard to other stringed instruments, as violins, violins, banjos, guitars and like. In all of these the strings are much affected by exposure to dampness and great changes of temperature. All the instruments should be carefully kept in a manner that with taste or fancied—Good Housekeeping.

A Murder Explained.

"Jule," remarked Brutus as he strolled into the dressing room of Caesar's tent, "I left you of the fight I saw bad among the Allobroges". Gets off a long, windy tale involving the single hundred slaughter of alcoss foreign barbarian.

"Brute, my boy," remarked Caesar solemnly when he had finished, "I advise you, especially Tuesdayne Gauls, but still I sense say that you remind me of a harp shattered by the lightning of ancient Jove."

"How so?" inquired Brutus, mournfully. "Because you're a blasted liar," answered Caesar. And from that day forth Brutus began to meditate on the idea of Marsh.—Yale Record.

Advice from Production.

That the use of tea was universal very early in Chinese history is borne out by the statement of Confucius, the wisest man of China, who he said: "Be good and courteous to all, even to the strangers from other lands. If he say little then that he thereby give unto him a good name. Be wise without money and without cow."—Philadelphia Times.

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SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 27th, 1891.
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Gents.—Yours of the 19th received. I shall be glad to speak for or recommend the use of Dr. Leslie's Special Prescription to any sufferer from sick headache, for I know from my own case what a blessing it is to be free from the pain and misery which nothing can be relieved from their ends. The liberal policies of the government, dating back to the passage of the great ordinance of 1787, in all but particular.
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CURRENT TIME TABLE
In Effect January 1, 1892.
LEAVE SALT LAKE.
No. 1—For Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and points East.....8.00 a.m.
No. 3—For Denver, Colorado Springs and points East.....4.15 p.m.
No. 5—For Ogden only.....7.15 a.m.
No. 7—For Ogden only.....4.15 p.m.
No. 9—For Ogden and intermediate points.....5.15 p.m.
No. 11—For Ogden and points West.....10.30 a.m.
ARRIVE SALT LAKE.
No. 2—From Denver, Pueblo, Colorado Springs and points East.....10.15 a.m.
No. 4—From Denver, Colorado Springs and points East.....11.45 p.m.
No. 6—From Ogden only.....10.30 a.m.
No. 8—From Ogden only.....7.00 p.m.
No. 10—From Ogden and intermediate points.....8.00 a.m.
No. 12—From Ogden and points West.....6.30 p.m.
Sunday trains leave Salt Lake 7.00 a.m., 4.00 p.m. Arrive 10.30 a.m., 6.30 p.m.
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ARRIVE.
From Salt Lake City.....8.00 a.m.
From Ogden, Salt Lake City, Park City.....10.00 a.m.
From Ogden and Intermediate.....10.00 a.m.
From Ogden, Salt Lake City, Park City and intermediate.....7.00 p.m.
From Ogden, Salt Lake City, Park City and intermediate.....7.00 p.m.
From Ogden and Intermediate.....8.00 a.m.
From Ogden and Intermediate.....8.00 a.m.
From Ogden and Intermediate.....8.00 a