IDAHO SECTION. DESERET EVENING NEWS. IDAHO SECTION.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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IRRIGATION IN IDAHO

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"It seems to me," says George C. Pardee, former governor of the state of California, and president of the National Irrigation Congress, "that irrigation is now one of the greatest and most necessary problems this country has to solve. Without it the cities must become too great. With it the country can preserve that balance of power which is so necessary for the nation's security."

The pertinence of this statement is noticed when the great question of irrigation is given a little thoughtful consideration. From an insignificant, provincial concern, irrigation has developed within the last few years into a problem toward which the great thought of the nation is being directed. As a consequence, millions of acres of heretofore uncultivated and barren land is being converted into green and productive fields—where grew the sturdy sagebrush roamed the gaunt prairie wolf and lynx, now stand as monuments to the redeemer of the desert—King Irrigation—the comfortable homes of prosperous and happy yeomen; and where once the shriek of the hawk, the hoot of the owl and the doleful howl of the coyote greeted the ear of the traveler, today the lowing of milk cows, the crow of the master of the barn-yard barom and the laughter of merry children tickle the ear and gladden the heart.

Need we advance an argument in favor of irrigation? Are not its benefits sufficiently obvious as to establish it among the certainties of science? Argument, indeed, is gone, when we once observe how irrigation has turned bleak deserts into gardens and waste places into habitable homes; how it has caused the farmer, as he turns the cool life-giving waters upon his thirsty land, to defy the parching winds of summer and smile during the long, dry months; and how it has made the ungracious rivers and streams, as they dashed heedlessly by, ignoring the parched lips of the desert, give of their bounteous life to feed the scanty vegetation upon the broad stretches along their sides.

ADVANTAGES OF IRRIGATION.

As to the advantages of irrigation over precipitation, we need here note but a few brief facts. Even where rainfall is plentiful, there are important advantages in crop production by irrigation over the natural rainfall. In the first place irrigation waters can be applied at such times and in such quantities as they are needed; this gives a certainty to results which cannot be realized where the chance of inadequate or untimely rainfall is depended upon. Again, where the natural rainfall is depended upon, it is imperative that only so many plants can be allowed to occupy the soil as are likely to increase the loss of soil moisture beyond what the rains and tillage will make good; whereas, by irrigation methods, the closeness of stand upon the ground is limited only by the demands for root-room, air and sunshine. Since, then, so many more plants can be grown upon an acre by irrigation than otherwise, the yield will be much larger.

Then, too, water used for irrigation contains almost without exception much larger percentages of both the organic and ash ingredients of plant food than rain waters do, and, as this is largely in the soluable form, it becomes at once available and thus stimulates vigorous growth.

CRUDE BEGINNING.

The beginning of irrigation in Idaho was, in harmony with its surroundings, very crude. Along with the placer miner, there came into our mountain valleys in the early sixties, the farmer to grow grain and vegetables for him. These were Idaho's first citizens.

With this first farmer and those coming after him during the succeeding two and a half decades, the method of irrigation consisted merely of diverting a portion of the waters of a stream in a plow furrow upon the land lying along its banks. Very often an obstruction across the stream was necessary to make such diversion.

But when the population had increased sufficiently to inhabit these lands along the headwaters of the streams and made the choosing of the upper-lands necessary for the creation of new homes, co-operative effort in the procuring of water for their farms became obvious. Under this system, a number of farmers residing in a certain locality would unite in the construction of a canal, conducting water from a creek or river upon their lands, miles away. The canal thus constructed would be their own property and they would procure their water at actual cost. This system, though quite extensively practiced today, has about reached its limit, so far as new irrigation projects in this state are concerned; for the reason, principally, that opportunities for such are no longer in evidence.

Idaho yet has great bodies of unoccupied and irrigable land, and from her snow-capped mountains then continue to flow enormous volumes of water downward to the ocean; but such forces are too great for a farmer or set of farmers to grapple with—it takes the combined force of thousands and of millions in the hard coin of our nation to confront the situation. This is what we will call the third step in the progress of irrigation in this state, made possible by the creation at our national capital of what is known as the "Carey-Act."

THE CAREY ACT.

Idaho's progressiveness was manifested in her readiness to accept the privilege of another stride forward. She was among the first to take advantage of this act; the provisions of which allow capitalists to construct irrigation works for the redemption of a given tract of land, the cost of which works is prorated to the acreage to be covered. The land thus redeemed from a desert condition is offered by the state (to whom the land has been given by the general government on condition of its reclamation) to the public for 50c an acre, with an additional sum of, say, from $20 to $35 an acre for a perpetual water right. Under these provisions, the construction company is under contract to the state and the construction of the works is under the supervision of the state engineer, and the water right is inseperable from the land, and when all the water rights are disposed of the canals and all appurtenances become the property of the water users. Any naturalized citizen of the United States, or person who has declared his intention to become such, except married women, is entitled to 160 acres of land under this act. The payments on the land are 25c down and 25c when final proof is made, which can be done so soon as one-eighth of the land is under cultivation. Payments on the water are made in ten annual installments, with 6 per cent interest on deferred payments.

As to the success Idaho has achieved under this act, we need at this point but refer to the Twin Falls tract of 220,000 acres, situated on the south side of the Snake river, opposite Shoshone Falls. Three years ago this was a sagebrush plain—now 10,000 people have comfortable homes upon it—11 towns have been built, and a great agricultural community established—out of all of which a new county was created at the last session of the state legislature. The county seat, Twin Falls city, has now a population of 3,000 souls. A branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad traverses the whole tract, and a new electric railway is planned for the near future.

THE RECLAMATION ACT.

With the Carey Act has come a companion quite as beneficent though slower in progress—the Reclamation Act. The workings under 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. Idaho has also taken advantage of this act in what are known as the Minidoka and Boise-Payette projects, reclaiming, respectively, 80,000 and 372,000 acres of land, at a cost of $11,000,000, which sum practically exhausts the original allotment made to this state. The total acreage under these projects is now in private ownership.

The Minidoka project is situated on the Snake river, in the southeastern part of Lincoln county. Work on the great 600-foot dam across Snake river, from which water was diverted by gravity for the 80,000 acres, was begun in the fall of 1904. In the spring of 1907 the dam and the canals had been completed and water delivered to the settlers. On this tract over 16,000 acres were put under cultivation this year.

The Boise-Payette project is situated principally in the Boise valley, the waters for which will be taken from the Boise and Payette rivers, near the heads of each immense storage systems have been installed by great masonry dams across the river channels. The main canal, of 40 miles in length, will flow through two capacious reservoirs, situated on Deer Flat, west of Nampa; work on which is now nearing completion. These two reservoirs are of huge capacity, and will be used in which to store water during the wet season of the year for distribution during the summer. This project will be completed and the water delivered in the spring of 1908.

The Minidoka project contemplates the further reclamation of 50,000 acres of land on the south side of the Snake river, by the installation of a pumping plant, on which construction work, it is expected, will begin next spring. This will be the first departure, on a large scale, from the gravity method of water diversion.

GREAT CAPITAL DEMANDED.

Future irrigation projects in this state, with perhaps a few exceptions, will require the investment of huge capital. Land is yet plentiful, and there is yet an abundance of water; but in order to force the later to serve the former, immense dams will have to be constructed across the deep river gorges, or extensive storage reservoirs built, or pumping plants installed, any one of which would mean an expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Yet, this should inspire no fearful apprehensions as to the improbable redemption of our vast land areas. The progressiveness of our western states has attracted the capitalists of the east and they are investing their thousands and their millions with lavish hands upon the shoulders of our unlimited resources. Capital waits at our door.

From reports received at the state statistical bureau from the various irrigation companies and canal owners of the state, though not complete as to the returns, there are sufficient facts and figures at hand to form the basis of a very conservative estimate of the acreage of irrigated lands and the acreage subject to irrigation, the length of canals and cost of construction.

Accompanying this article is a table showing by counties the information above referred to. It will be observed that the figures given do not show the total cultivated acreage in any one county; they pertain wholly to the irrigated lands and lands coming within the circumference of irrigation systems. This will account for the small showing for some of the counties—especially the six counties in the northern part of the state, viz., Latah, Idaho, Nez Perce, Kootenai, Bonner and Shoshone, where precipitation is almost wholly depended upon for the production of crops. Shoshone county has no farming to speak of—all mining. Bonner and Kootenai counties are principally mining and timber in their industries, though farming is practised in a small way. Latah, Idaho and Nez Perce counties, however, form one of the principal granaries of the state. These three counties have under cultivation 1,379,000 acres and will produce this year, it is estimated, a surplus of 7,000,000 bushels of wheat.

From the table it will be observed that Idaho has under canal systems nearly 2,000,000 acres of land, over half of which is under actual cultivation; that this state has expended nearly $20,500,000 in the construction of irrigation works, and that the length of her canals totals over 9,000 miles. If her canals were put end to end, there would be a waterway formed sufficient in length to throw a loop around the state of Idaho and extend an arm which would reach to the door of Kaiser Wilhelm's palace in Berlin, Germany.

HOW OTHER STATES STAND.

Idaho has in all about 1,025 separate canals and irrigation ditches; she has 13 Carey act projects, covering 886,500 acres, and 2 government reclamation projects reclaiming 552,000 acres. As compared with surrounding states, Idaho has more irrigated land, more land open to settlement, a greater acreage under Carey act projects and, excepting Montana, has reclaimed more land by virtue of the reclamation act than any state in the west, or in the Union, so far as known. Idaho has 818,708 acres of irrigated land in excess of Utah; 2,454,608 more than Nevada; 1,101,653 over Colorado; 1,954,608 over Wyoming; 1,454,608 more than Montana; 2,394,958 over Washington, and 2,746,608 more than Oregon. As to Carey act projects, Utah and Nevada have none; Wyoming has 26; Montana 3, Colorado 3, Oregon 3 and Idaho 13. Under this act Idaho has provided water for 186,500 acres more than Wyoming; 830,198 over Colorado; 821,500 more than Montana and 702,700 more than Oregon. Under irrigation systems, Idaho has available for settlement 513,000 acres of land, which is that amount more than Utah reports, 413,000 acres more than Nevada has, 213,000 acres over Wyoming, 493,000 acres more than Nevada has, 213,000 acres over Wyoming, 493,000 over Montana, 488,000 over Colorado, 433,000 acres more than Washington, and 433,000 acres more than Oregon.

Fifteen of the United States, including the territory of New Mexico, have exercised rights under the reclamation act. These states with the number of projects in each are as follows: Montana, 10; Idaho, 2; Utah, 3; Wyoming, 2; Washington, 2; New Mexico, 5; Nebraska, 1; Arizona 1; Colorado 1; Nevada, 1; California, 1; Oregon, 2; South Dakota, 1; North Dakota, 3; and Kansas, 1. In acreage reclaimed under this act, Montana is far in the lead with her 1,489,800 acres; Idaho comes next with 522,000 acres; then follow the other states in the numerical order above given, graduating down to 3,900 acres for Kansas.

Aside from the Carey act projects given, under which are 513,000 acres of land available for settlement, there are numerous private concerns scattered throughout the state under which government and state land in quantities ranging from 160 to 5,000 acres can be had. This, in connection with the 70,000-acre Minidoka pumping plant, already mentioned in this article, added to the enormous total of available Carey land would give us a total of over 750,000 acres available for settlement in this state by next year, which would, indeed, be a very conservative estimate.

Outside of all this there are fully 2,000,000 acres in the arid portion of the state susceptible of irrigation, and would be very productive land, if water could be procured. However, fully half of this vast area would produce good grain crops by the process of dry farming—at least 100,000 acres are now being so cultivated with surprising success.

RECORD YEAR FOR IMPORTS.

Value of Merchandise Brought in 1906 Was Far Over a Billion.

The value of all merchandise imported into the United States during the year ended June 30, 1907, according to an agricultural department report, was larger than that of any previous year, and amounted to $1,227,000,000. The value of farm products imported during this year was also the largest on record, and equaled $554,000,000, or 42.5 per cent of the total imports. For the seventeen years ending with 1906, farm products constituted 49.1 per cent of the total imports of merchandise.

The tendency during these years has been for imports of farm products to increase, as measured by value, more slowly than imports of other goods. During 1890-1894 farm products constituted 51 per cent of the total; in 1895 1899, 51.1 per cent, and for the period of 1900-1904, the percentage was 46.7. The highest percentage was in 1894, when farm products formed 55.8 per cent of the total, and the lowest was in 1906.

Forest products imported into the United States have increased in value from $46,000,000 in 1896 to $96,000,000 in 1906 or more than 100 per cent in ten years. The years of greatest increase were 1902, which showed a total of $12,000,000 greater than that of the previous year, and 1906 which exceeded 1904 by $13,000,000.

The decrease in 1906 as compared with 1905, in the value of imports into the United States from South America of both farm and forest products, amounted to a total of $16,000,000. However, the value in 1906 was $13,000,000 more than in 1904.

Farm imports imported from Europe increased $11,000,000 in 1906 as compared with 1905; from Asia they increased $8,000,000, and from Africa $1,000,000. These gains were almost offset by decreases in the value of imports of farm products from the other grand divisions, so that the net increase for all imports of farm products in 1906 over 1905 was less than one-half million dollars. Most of the forest products imported in 1906, as measured by value, came from countries of Nort America. The value of this class of imports from each grand division except South America and Oceania was larger in 1906 than in 1905.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR IN IDAHO.

THE new senator from Idaho who was seated March 4, 1907, has the distinction of being the only senator holding his seat by a direct vote of the people, or as near that as possible under the Constitution, also of never having held political office up to the time of his election to succeed the Hon. Fred T. Dubois. He, however, has always been a close student of politics, and in his college days in Illinois and Kansas was known as a campaigner and "a rattling good spellbinder."

Senator Borah was born on a farm at Fairfield, Wayne county, Illinois, June 29, 1865. He is the son of William N. and Elizabeth (West) Borah, whose paternal grandparents came from New England. His father was a native of Kentucky, and his mother was born in Indiana.

HIS EARLY TRAINING.

The senator's early training was received in the public schools of Fairfield and the Southern Illinois academy at Enfield, Illinois. He later entered the Kansas State university at Lawrence, Kan., from which institution he was graduated with the degree of M. A. The foundation of the career of the present junior senator from Idaho was laid in the law office of Mr. A. M. Lasley at Lyons, Kan., where he remained a year and one-half and was admitted to the bar in 1888. Convinced, however, that there was a broader field of action further west, he moved to Boise, Idaho, where in 1891 he opened a law office, and has been in active practise there ever since.

NATIONAL REPUTATION.

The senator's one particular case that gave him a national reputation and endeared him to all law-abiding citizens of his state was his masterly handling of the prosecution of the dynamiters, who during the labor troubles at Couer d'Alene dynamited the Bunker Hill Sullivan mine. In that diabolical plot the strikers killed several non-union miners. Governor Steunenberg declared martial law and placed the present senator in charge of the prosecution of the offenders. Though embarrassed at many turns in the case, he succeeded in convicting one of the dynamiters of murder and 12 others of felony. Eight others whom he had indicted escaped the law by bribing the soldier guard and breaking jail, and were never retaken.

STEUNENBERG CASE.

Mr. Borah's reputation was principally local until he became identified with the prosecution in the Steunenberg case. He was one of the party of Boise citizens and friends of ex-Governor Frank Steunenberg who went to Caldwell the night of the assassination, Dec. 30, 1905, and, through personal attachment to his martyred friend and as a citizen of Idaho and an attorney of ability, he has, from that hour, taken a very active part in bringing to justice the perpetrators of that awful crime. He has been associated with every step in the preliminary investigations and identified with all the court proceedings in the case.

HAYWOOD TRIAL.

The trial of W. D. Haywood commenced May 9, 1907, and lasted until July 28. Haywood and his associates were arrested in Denver Feb. 17, 1906, and brought to Boise on the 18th of the same month. The first notable effort of Senator Borah in connection with the trial was his argument in opposition to the motion of the defense for a bill of particulars, which was overruled by the court. His address to the jury is conceded to be one of the most notable deliverances of the times. While it was courageous, forceful and profoundly impressive, it was totally devoid of abusive utterances.

HARASSED BY ENEMIES.

During this trial Senator Borah was harassed by political and other enemies, whose operations finally culminated in his indictment in the United States court, in an alleged conspiracy to defraud the government out of timber lands. So soon as the Haywood trial was ended, he demanded an immediate hearing; but the government attorneys wanted more time. The trial of the senator was finally begun on Sept. 23. The government sent several able prosecutors to Boise to assist the district attorney; they placed dozens of witnesses on the stand, but none of them connected the senator with any improper conduct. Only one witness was placed on the stand by the defense—Mr. Borah himself. He admitted that he had been attorney for the Barber Lumber company, whose operations were under investigation by the government, prior to his election, and as such attorney he passed on such papers as were brought to him. The case was submitted to the jury without a word of argument on the part of the defense, and in exactly 14 minutes the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Senator Borah was given a spontaneous and general demonstration in Boise following the announcement of the verdict, which emphasized the completeness of his vindication.

IS VERY POPULAR.

His fearless conduct in the management of the Steunenberg case, together with his recognized ability as a lawyer, made him a popular candidate for the senatorship. In the primary elections he succeeded in electing delegates to the state convention at Pocatello, on Aug. 2, 1906, favorable to his candidacy for the senatorship, after a long and bitter struggle. Mr. Borah was victorious in having a plank inserted in the platform of the convention pledging all the candidates of his party to the legislature to vote for him for United States senator.

HIS ELECTION.

This practically made an election of United States senator by a direct vote of the people, and at the polls Idaho showed her approval of Mr. Borah by electing 54 members of the legislature pledged to him out of 72 voted for, and on Jan. 15, 1907, the senate and house of Idaho formally elected him to the United States senate.

Senator Borah was married April 28, 1895, to Miss Mamie McConnell, daughter of ex-Governor W. J. McConnell of Idaho. The senator's life has been too busy a one to be much of a club man. He is an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias.

LIST OF SEGREGATIONS IN IDAHO UNDER CAREY ACT.

NAME OF COMPANY AND ADDRESS.	Total Acreage	Unsold Acreage	Price per Water-Right
Twin Falls Land & Water Co., Twin Falls	226,000	45,000	$25.00
American Falls Land & Power Co., Pocatello	57,000	27,000	25.00
Canyon Canal Company, Boise	6,000	.....	30.00
Mullens Canal company, Payette	6,000	5,000	15.00
Idaho Irrigation company, Ltd., Alberta	110,000	34,000	35.00
Marysville Land & Improvement Co., Marysville	3,000	.....	25.00
Big Lost River Land & Irrigation Co., Powell	85,000	73,000	30.00
Twin Falls North-side Land & Water Co., Shoshone	180,000	109,500	35.00
Glenn's Ferry Land & Irrigation Co., Glenn's Ferry	22,000	22,000	35.00
Fruit Irrigation Company, Stone	4,500	4,500	28.00
Twin Falls Salmon River Irrigation Co., Twin Falls	140,000	140,000	40.00
Cedar Creek Reservoir Company, Boise	50,000	50,000	35.00
Owyhee Irrigation Company, Pocatello	3,000	3,000	30.00
Totals	886,500	513,000	.....

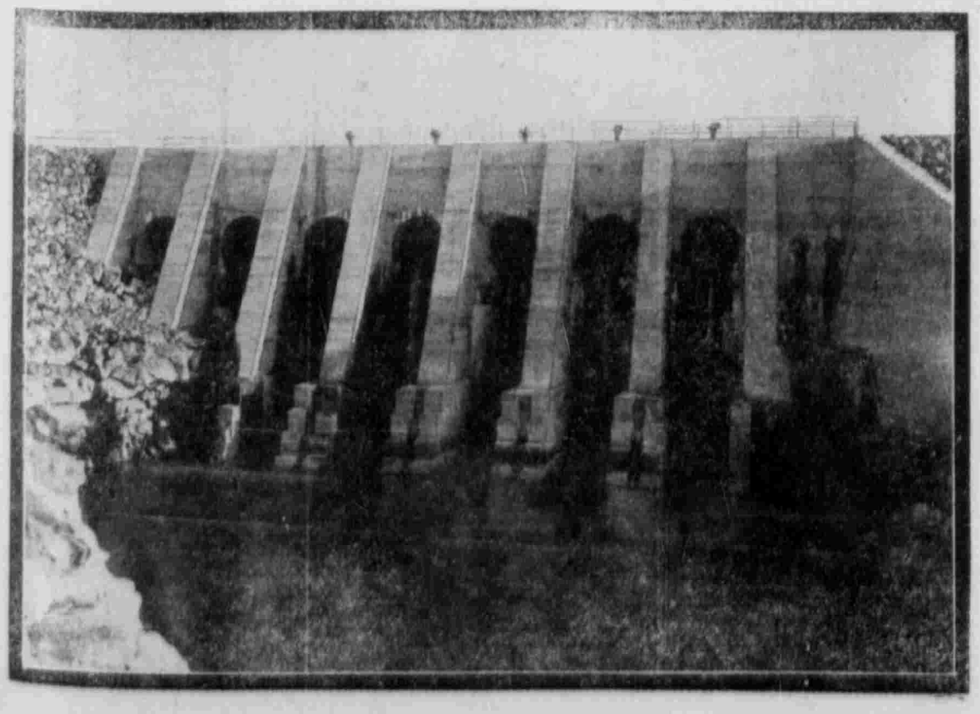
Lands under the last five companies listed above are not yet subject to entry. Their segregations have been applied for and some of them already made and it is confidently expected that their lands will be open to settlement during the coming year.

TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE IRRIGATION STATISTICS.

STATE.	No. of Carey Act Projects.	Total Acreage.	Average Cost of Water Per Acre.	No. Gov. Rec. Projects.	Total Acreage.	Average Cost of Water Per Acre.	Total Irrigated Lands of All Classes.	Total Acreage Irrigated Land Available for Settlement.	Average Cost per Acre of Farm Land.
Idaho	13	886,500	$30	2	522,000	$23.50	2,954,608	513,000	$50.00
Utah	.....	.....	.....	3	500,000	40.00	2,135,900	.....	60.00
Nevada	.....	.....	.....	1	150,000	26.00	500,000	100,000	50.00
Wyoming	26	700,000	30	2	375,000	35.00	1,000,000	300,000	30.00
Montana	3	65,000	25	10	1,489,800	35.00	1,500,000	20,000	25.00
Oregon	3	183,800	26	2	100,000	32.00	208,000	70,000	60.00
Colorado	3	56,302	.....	1	150,000	.....	1,552,955	25,000	50.00
New Mexico	.....	.....	.....	5	235,000	35.00	1,000,000	544,000	45.00
Washington	.....	.....	.....	2	348,650	.....	649,650	80,000	60.00

TABLE SHOWING IDAHO'S IRRIGATED LANDS.

COUNTY.	No. Acres Under Canal Systems	No. Acres Actually Irrigated	Length of Canals	Cost of Construction
Ada	196,367	94,000	213	$1,207,000
Bannock	129,369	70,964	410	375,500
Bear Lake	41,744	31,624	194	76,100
Bingham	738,940	458,320	1,938	3,012,532
Blaine	335,764	210,650	850	4,431,430
Boise	41,449	22,181	268	166,650
Bonner	1,000	710	10	2,500
Canyon	128,905	92,090	1,241	3,002,930
Cassia	25,153	18,700	138	52,320
Custer	6,580	3,620	112	13,350
Elmore	110,837	94,706	90	536,725
Fremont	523,864	236,985	1,425	1,432,240
Idaho	7,615	3,950	75	41,550
Kootenai	8,060	6,620	29	236,000
Latah	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lemhi	31,025	21,149	120	71,063
Lincoln	33,041	12,595	270	136,668
Nez Perce	7,180	5,940	41	316,509
Oneida	156,176	93,285	634	1,000,712
Owyhee	126,000	6,514	102	168,000
Shoshone	.....	.....	.....	.....
Twin Falls	242,130	201,150	681	4,003,231
Washington	43,388	30,770	170	218,770
	2,954,608	1,656,593	9,021	$20,491,771



WASTE-WAY MINNEDOKA DAM.

BOISE RIVER, SITE OF DAM.