

The further continuance of the office of receiver of public moneys for Unit-ed States land offices is one of ques-tionable propriety, considered either from the standpoint of economy or ef-

in part.

in that state.

Construction work has proceeded rap-idly and satisfactorily. The building of large works has already been in-augurated in most of the western states, particular attention having been given to those localities where the largest areas of public land were available for reclamation or where the attreme arid lamation, or where the extreme arid ty of the climate and the character of the soil gave assurance of the ultimate success of the works. In the semi-arid parts of the country, where irrigation is still in its experimental stage and where the farmers and landowners are yet to be convinced of its benefits, greater caution and slower progress have been necessary in order to avoid risking investment of public funds able value Already, in one of the extremely arid states most needing development (Ne-vada) large and permanent works, built under the provisions of the re-clamation act, have been put into service in the presence of well-known statesmen and citizens, and other no table works are almost ready for use

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administration in the land ser commend to favorable considn the recommendation of the soloner of the general land office his office be abolished.

that this office be abolished. The opening to settlement and entry under the homestead law of the Rose-bud Indian lands in South Dakota and of the Devil's Lake lands in North Da-kola, under the acts of April 23, 1904 (23 Stat. L., 254), and April 27, 1904 (33 Stat. L., 319), respectively, was suc-cessfully accomplished, and the entry of lands in said reservations is still in progress. Equally successful was the opening to settlement and entry under the homestead laws on Aug. 28, 1905, of the unreserved and unallotted lands of Unreserved and unallotted lands of Unitah Indian reservation in Utah. The act of March 3, 1995.

TIMBER LAND SALES.

Further sales of pine timber under the act of June 27, 1962, known as the forris bill, on the Chippewa ceded ands in Minnesota were held at Cass ake, Minn., on Nov. 15 and 17, 1964. here sales were had under the system if sealed bids provided for in said act. In were in every way a success were in every way a success. For the acts of March 3, 1901, and 30, 1902, several of the municipal by said ovements contemplated by said in the counties of Kiowa, Com-and Caddo have been completed wathcally of the belance been

factically all of the balance have contracted for and are now under uction in the cities of Hobart, in and Anadarko, O. T. the Indian service four agencies abolished during the year, and duties of the agents devolved upon

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All of the land which can be irrigated within the next few years has already been filed upon, and there is an ap parently insatiable demand for more irrigable land.

The problems which now confront the reclamation service are not those relating to the construction of works or to the disposal of lands, but those concerned with a wise enforcement of the letter and spirit of the reclamation act in respect to small farms and ac tual settlement upon them. Many of the persons taking these irrigable tracts are obviously endeavoring to hold them for speculative purposes, and under one form or another are try under one form or another are trying to acquire as large areas as possible. This can be prevented by tactfully but

rmly enforcing the letter and spirit of the law. Owing to the lavish disposal of the public lands during recent years there remains in the possession of the gov-ernment only a comparatively small amount of land which ultimately may be irrigated, most of the reclamable land being in the hands of individuals or comparations. One of the viscat are the law. r corporations. One of the wisest pro-

which states that "no right to the use of water for land in private ownership shall be sold for a tract exceeding 160 shall be sold for a tract exceeding 160 acres to any one land-owner, and no such sale shall be made to any land-owner unless he be an actual bona fide resi-dent on such land, or an occupant thereof residing on such land or an oc-cupant thereof residing in the neigh-barbood". It is believed that the budi borhood." It is believed that the judi clous enforcement of this provision will bring about the cultivation of the reclaimed land in small holdings: thus indirectly many of the errors of the past in respect to profigate disposa of irrigable land may be partly reme-

died. It is obviously not the intent of th reclamation act to irrigate at puble expense large private holdings and incase the wealth of a small numbe of men unless the nublic receives an equivalent gain. The strongest argu-ment for the law is, not that it adds wealth to the state, but that it builds the greatest number of homes and cre-ates a community of owners of the sol who live upon the land and derive their ustenance from it. The operations under the reclama

tion act have stimulated development of the west in many lines and have aroused nrivate enterprise to take up similar work. Experience has shown that there are many localities where, owing to complications of vested rights and partial development of the country. such private enterprise can conduct

vantage than can the government. On the other hand, there are many local-ities where because of interstate problens or the magnitude of the work. only national agencies can bring about the best development. The work of the government is being conducted in hermony with all such enterprises, whether under private, corporate or state control.

FUNDS PROVIDED BY ACT. The funds provided by the act of June 17, 1902, constituting the proceeds from the disposal of public lands in the



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