

Marvellous Development of the Twin Falls North Side Irrigation Tracts

THE operations of J. S. and W. S. Kuhn in Idaho, during the past two and a half years, has no parallel in the history of the west. In that brief time they have built and have under construction irrigation canals that aggregate the distance between San Francisco and Pittsburg, have supplied water for 376,000 acres, and through the heart of these acres constructed and put in operation a broad gage railroad, have erected magnificent hotels in each townsite, built one great power plant and have another well under way, and have established modern systems of water works, electric lights and power, and telephone systems in all the towns on the land they have been the means of reclaiming.

The Kuhns are the only great irrigation people who have come into Idaho who, after their water rights have been sold, are investing millions of dollars in other enterprises whereby Idaho's many and diversified resources may be developed.

A brief review of the many Idaho enterprises financed, constructed and operated by J. S. and W. S. Kuhn of Pittsburg, Pa., is in order, and it will be of great interest to thousands of people who read facts concerning the incalculable benefit Idaho is receiving through the operations of these captains of finance.

On April 22, 1907, the first segregation of 30,000 acres of the Twin Falls North Side Land & Water company's holdings was sold at the town of Milner. The water right sold for \$30 per acre. At that time nearly all of the 30,000 acres was sold.

On Oct. 1, 1907, the second segregation of 150,000 acres was sold at the new town of Jerome. On that day and the three following days \$2,040,000 worth of water rights were sold.

On June 1, 1908, the Salmon River tract of 100,000 acres was sold and practically cleaned up within three days of the date of sale.

On Feb. 8, 1909, the Clover Creek segregation, a part of the north side project, consisting of 28,000 acres, was sold; and on Sept. 20, 1909, the Oakley project of 38,000 acres was sold.

In every one of these openings there was evidenced by the purchasers of water rights an abiding confidence not only in the Messrs. Kuhn as financiers, constructors and operators, but in the soil, climate and yielding capacity of the splendid acres of the Snake River valley.

The total acreage of the several segregations amounts to 376,000 acres of which 90 per cent has been sold.

PRICES OF WATER RIGHTS.

The prices of the water rights of the acres of the first segregation was \$20; of the second, \$25; of the Salmon River, \$40; of the Clover Creek, \$45, and of the Oakley project, \$35.

It is well for those who are uninitiated in these great irrigation projects to understand that these openings were the result of the great Carey act and are known as Carey act openings, which means that an act of Congress granted to the arid states unimproved lands providing they were reclaimed. All of this work has been done under the supervision of the state land board of Idaho. This board fixes the prices that the company may charge for water rights, which is governed by the cost of construction of canals and distribution systems.

The water rights have been sold upon a small payment down, namely, \$2 per acre, and the balance distributed over a period of 10 years at 6 per cent interest. The land was purchased from the state of Idaho at a price of 50 cents per acre, the entryman being required to pay 25 cents per acre when making entry and 25 cents per acre at time of making final proof on his land. The payments were small on the start for the reason that it was thought wise and best to give the people who were buying these Carey act lands and water rights an opportunity to establish themselves and place their acres under cultivation before the larger payments became due.

The magnitude of these enterprises only really dawned on the human mind after they have been seen. The pay rolls in the different departments of this great work aggregate over a quarter of a million dollars a month. It was a stupendous undertaking. For many years men who were conversant and experienced in the art of irrigation felt that some day the thousands and hundreds of thousands of acres of the Valley of the Snake would be reclaimed and converted into a veritable garden, which is being rapidly done, but the enormous cost of everything was too big even for the men who dreamed of the future greatness and of the wonderful possibilities connected with the Valley of the Snake.

IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS.

It remained for men who were captains of finance, who had behind them the endorsement of thousands of investors, to take the step that converted the valley of the Snake from the desert to a profitable farm, and the reader refers to the dates of these respective openings and sees that it only extends back a period of two and a half years. It is little short of the marvelous that so gigantic a work could be done in so short a time.

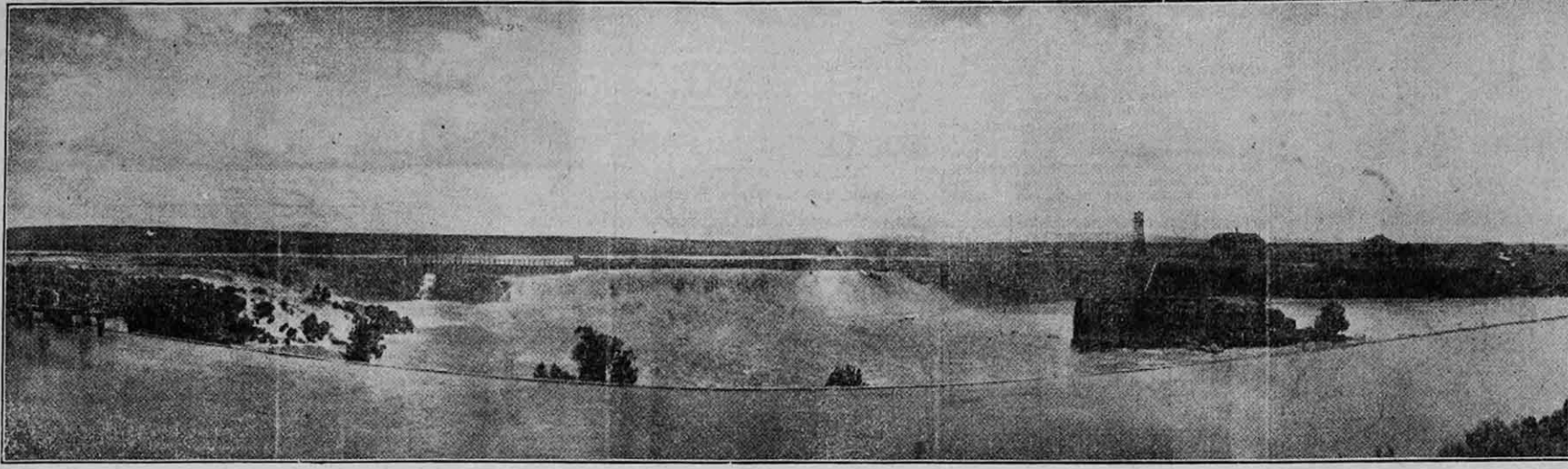
It is safe to say that upon the completion of the various irrigation enterprises which the Messrs. Kuhn have constructed and are completing in Idaho the length of the main canals, laterals and sub-laterals will represent a distance almost as far as from San Francisco to Pittsburg in actual miles, and the great dams that are being constructed the mighty canals that have been built mile upon mile across the somber and uninviting desert, will mean an enormous work well done. Few know the difficulties that bring great forces of men and animals under such conditions. Water stations had to be provided, wells had to be drilled. In the first place the water was hauled from the Snake river in tanks drawn by four and six mule teams, then the wells were completed and the water taken from these wells to various parts of the tract, where the work was in progress.

EVERY PROMISE KEPT.

At every one of these land openings a promise was made to the purchasers of water rights as to the time when they could depend on the water and when the canals would be ready and the distribution system in operation. Every promise was kept to the letter. To be sure the first year of a great reclamation project is a hard one. There are many adverse conditions to meet. You have the people who are, in most instances, unacquainted with the practice of irrigation; the untended ditches break; there are a hundred things that have to be met and overcome, and yet I think it can be conservatively stated that for the first year in the operation of a great canal system, such as there is on the north side tract, that a remarkable record has been made, not only by the company but by the set-

In the Snake River Valley of Idaho.

The Largest, Most Complete and Substantial Irrigation Development in America. 370,000 Acres of Idaho's Most Productive Land Reclaimed in Less than Three Years.



Showing Concrete Section and Waste Gates of North Side Canal Twin Falls, North Side Land and Water Co.



PART OF 5 MILE MASONRY WALL, MAIN CANAL.



DISTANCE NO DETRIMENT.

Agriculture, in its highest development, is made up of four interdependent elements—soil, water, climate and drainage. There is a reason why the best products from Idaho win recognition at every great exposition and are in demand, one might say, from coast to coast, and there is likewise a very good reason why the products from one of the Kuhn segregations won a signal victory in competition with the best in Idaho.

The farmer in New York, within an hour's shipping of the great markets, gets \$1 a barrel for apples, while the Idaho grower gets \$2 a box on local cars. Both sell on the same market and a barrel holds two boxes of apples. These apples go to the same market. One is raised under shortage of sunshine, excessive rainfall, and where untimely rain washes the chemical spray from the apple blossoms, rendering ineffective the war on insects like the codling moth, the source of worms in apples.

The Idaho farmer has long days of sunshine that add a high color to his fruit, the natural dryness of the desert that gives flavor, and a just-right altitude that gives keeping quality to apples. The character of the soil comprising the five great tracts, reclaimed under the auspices of W. S. and J. S. Kuhn, is volcanic ash with variations ranging from sandy to that of a more clayey nature.

"Fertile soil" has been the luring song of all new countries. Fertility means plant food and its availability. And nowhere is a more responsive soil found than the volcanic ash, and the reason is that none of the plant food stored by the ages has been washed away by excessive rainfall. The ash-like composition of the soil causes it to pack closely to planted seed, leaving the minimum of air space—the secret of successful germination of seed. The same soil characteristics enable roots easily to find their way to great depth and distance, and to feed upon plant food in its most available form. Under these conditions seeds germinate quickly, send up vigorous plants and the subsequent root development has its counterpart in the growth above ground. Quality in everything brings the price, the quality in produce comes largely from quick, vigorous growth.

WATER SUPPLY SECURED.

The most important thing about any water supply is its source. Three of the Kuhn Segregations, the Milner, North Side and Clover creeks, are supplied from the Snake river, which heads in a region where there is a constant and dependable fall of snow every winter. In addition to the

regular flow from the river as a safeguard against low water, representatives of the Kuhns arranged for storage of water in the great Jackson Lake near Yellowstone park sufficient to flood every acre in these segregations to a depth of two feet. There will never be a shortage of water on these tracts, and that expensive luxury of many irrigation districts, litigation, is unnecessary and unheard of. The Oakley and the Salmon river tracts are watered from great reservoirs which catch the winter flow and spring floods of tributaries of the Snake.

THE CLIMATE.

Equally important to soil and water is climate. Zero was the coldest degree of the past winter. Without sunshine plant growth would cease, and the more there is of it the more vigorous the plant growth. A long, mild growing season is the summing up of the climate found at the five segregations.

There is a good slope to practically every farm reclaimed by the Kuhns, affording perfect drainage. It is equally important to get water off land as it is to get it on in an irrigated section. The five segregations are well adapted, through the varying character of the soil, to any of the fruit, root, cereal or forage crops common to the mid-west, west or northwest.

There are three elements in apple production—color, flavor, and keeping quality. The Hood River, Wenatchee and Yakima apples of the Pacific coast have forced their way by superior flavor and color into the best markets of the world. The same conditions that produce superior quality in the apples of the northwest exist in the five segregations, and in addition the high altitude gives "keeping" quality. The red, juicy, fine-keeping apple is the one that brings five cents each in any market. There are no old orchards, breeders of insects and diseases, on the five segregations; and an inspection law strictly enforced guards every fruit grower against the importation of insect pests and disease.

On the Twin Falls North Side tract the sagebrush was grubbed, ditches made, land leveled, plowed, planted,

and crops harvested samples of which won first honors over all Idaho. From sagebrush to state championships in six months is a grand record.

SOIL GETS THE PRIZES.

The fact that from two farms one at Wendell and one at Jerome, went to Boise that won over every other tract in Idaho, and from all the county fairs first-prize stuff in competition at the state fair is an indication that the soil and the just-right altitude of this section will win the high prices on the world's markets. Especially is this winning of 18 of the most desirable premiums worthy of detailed consideration when it is known that the ablest authorities along agricultural lines scoured all the potato cellars and grain fields of the justly famous Twin Falls South Side tract for potatoes and grain to win the coveted blue.

The quality found in 45 entries that won 18 prizes, in competition with thousands of exhibits from all Idaho, was not an accident. The elements required to mature plants in the highest degree of perfection were found in the soil of the Twin Falls North Side tract.

The judges were Professors Jones and Strickland, of the Iowa Agricultural College, Elias Nelson, director of the Idaho experiment farm at Caldwell, and Prof. Shinn, of the Idaho Agricultural college.

The same conditions that produced the superior quality in the potatoes from the Twin Falls North Side Tract will hold true with apples. And the natural conditions that make potato production so successful on the Twin Falls North Side Tract will make the

acres staggered comprehension. In a little spot in Colorado, called Greeley, from a radius of eight miles, come enough sugar beets to support a sugar factory costing one and a quarter million dollars; enough fruit and vegetables to maintain a canning factory; enough alfalfa hay to fatten 100,000 lambs, and, greatest of all, 9,000 carloads of potatoes that brought home \$2,000,000 to the growers. All this from a radius of eight miles in an irrigated country, 30 years old, with a water supply not so good as the North Side tracts, where a foot of snow and a freeze threaten in October, and where the soil, for responsiveness and yield, does not compare with our volcanic ash.

This wonderful record will be more than duplicated all over these 376,000 acres.

An estimate of what these 376,000 acres will ultimately produce fairly makes one dizzy. On the basis of 40-acre farms with a few cut up into tracts around the towns, there are farm homes for 10,000 families. That acreage in fruit, potatoes, alfalfa, sugar beets, with lambs, pigs and steers to eat the hay and grain will produce more than \$50,000,000 annually. Nothing has apparently been left undone by the Kuhns. All this production of crops means little without transportation.

RAILROADS.

Not alone are the Messrs. Kuhn engaged in the great work of reclamation, but they are building a standard gauge railroad, which at present has its terminus at Gooding, Idaho. The road extends from Gooding to Jerome, a distance of 24 miles, now in operation,

but the grade is being completed from Jerome to Milner, at which point the Snake River will be bridged and the road is also being extended from Milner to Oakley, a distance of 23 miles. Oakley will be the terminus for the present.

The Oregon Short Line are now building what they say will be their principal line across the North Side tract, beginning at Rupert and extending westward across the tract to Bliss. What the future of the road being built by the Messrs. Kuhn may be is not known. Many claim that it is part of a great system that is about to invade this country and that the present Idaho Southern is but one of the links in a great system. Time will, however, tell the story.

In addition to the great irrigation work of this company and the building of a railroad, the great powers of Snake river are being harnessed and the Messrs. Kuhn have organized a company known as the Great Shoshone and Twin Falls Water Power company.

At the present time their power house is located just below Shoshone Falls. From that point electricity is manufactured and transmitted to many towns in this section, namely, Twin Falls, Filer, Buhl, Jerome, Wendell and Gooding. These great power lines stretching across the desert have been built at an immense cost. Every part of the electrical equipment is modern, up-to-date and the best that money will buy.

POWER IN THE HOME.

You find on this new tract not only electricity being used for lighting purposes but for heating, and many tired women are running their washing machines by the power furnished by the Shoshone Falls miles and miles away, which might savor of tales from the Arabian Nights, but nevertheless it is all true, though I have no hesitation in saying that all of this great work is simply in its infancy.

Along the line of the Idaho Southern road, stretching across the tract have been established towns, namely, Wendell, Jerome, Hillsdale and Milner. These towns belong to the North Side project. Milner and Oakley will be the principal towns of the Twin Falls Oakley Project. Hollister the principal town of the Salmon River project; and Bliss the distributing point for the Clover Creek Segregation. In these small new towns you find waterworks, electric lights and hotels not usually found in cities with less than 40,000 population.

The hotel at Jerome, the North Side Inn, is one of the most beautiful hotels in the entire Pacific northwest. Modern in every respect and up to date from every point of view.

A very fine hotel has been completed at Milner and plans have been accepted for hotels at Wendell and Hollister that will be a credit to any city.

EMPIRE BUILDERS.

There are many capitalists who establish an enterprise and take their profits back to the older parts of the country, but it is said to the credit of J. S. and W. S. Kuhn that they have not only carried to a successful completion a mighty reclamation project whereby homes for thousands of people have been provided, opportunities created for people of moderate means

to leave the renter or wage-earning class and obtain farms on long time payments at a low rate of interest. They are aiding in developing the resources of the great state of Idaho, and are, by the development of the water power, the building of railroad, the establishment of towns, adding millions of dollars to the taxable product of the state. The foundation for all of these great enterprises has been laid swiftly but surely, and work that will be under ordinary eastern conditions will be a people great, strong and splendid in eighteen months. Surely it is a derelict to contemplate a more like a dream after long years of service for many of the pioneers who worked so valiantly in this field to have in a night a mighty civilization grow up around us. It means much to the nation, to Idaho and to prosperity.

GOOD SCHOOLS.

Magnificent school houses, with centralized school systems, are being built in all these new towns, which is the greatest compliment in that it is an indication of the intelligence of any community. It is not the purpose of this article to land and praise men to a great extent, but to simply lay a plain matter of fact way give, for the magnificent work done in the building of a great estate, credit where credit is due. It has been a untiring of many forces that has produced the splendid results that exist in Idaho today, and too much credit cannot be given to J. S. and W. S. Kuhn. Their work is a long record of successes behind them, and who are well-known characters in the financial and commercial world for their foresight in establishing a series of enterprises so humane, so beneficial and so practical to the human family. And yet, when all of this is said regarding the mighty development of work, it is the beginning of the alphabet. These hundreds of thousands of acres have to be conquered and made to produce money in order to have them open out to a satisfactory ending.

These great companies have provided a corps of agricultural and horticultural experts who, with the newcomer how to farm his land, the best crops to grow, and how to produce maximum results at minimum costs.

It is a mighty system. It has taken thought and brains and good generalship to formulate such great plans, and yet the writer, who has been engaged in this kind of work for many years, has no hesitation whatever in placing the stamp of success on these great enterprises.

As time goes on railroads will be extended, great market facilities afforded, which with a better understanding of conditions and with the class of people that are coming from every state in the Union with one purpose in view, to make for themselves and their children a new home, there can be no fear for the outcome.

MAJOR FRED R. REED.

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CANADIAN FISH STORIES.

Commissioner George M. Bowers of the bureau of fisheries said recently in Washington of the black bass that he is sending to South Africa at the request of Col. Roosevelt:

"These fish will do well, but no miracles are to be expected of them. Many persons seem to think that our bureau is as miraculous in all its works as well as the Canadian salmon."

"Two Canadians were boasting. 'Where I come from,' said the first, 'we have a salmon river that rises in some boiling springs. As the salmon climb up the river they gradually get acclimated to the heat of the water, and don't mind it. In fact, when we fish in the highest reaches of the stream, we catch salmon ready boiled.'"

"I don't doubt that," said the second Canadian. "Down my way, there's a curious salmon river, too. It rises in some tin mines. As the fish work up, they meet the suspended ore gradually increasing quantities. They get quite mineralized if they keep on upstream, so that, if we fish at the head of the river, we catch our salmon ready mined, and all we have to do is to pick and ship them to market."

BEFORE THE DRUG ACT.

"Before we had governmental inspection of drugs," said a chemist of Washington, "quack things used to happen. Here."

A Washington man was taken violently ill, and his wife got him a box of a placebo. He took the medicine and recovered. The remainder of the box was put away in a damp closet.

"Some time later, going to the closet, the man found that two of six pills left in the box had sprouted. A healthy green shoot had sprung from each. Instead, you see, of being new pills, they were nothing but peas covered with a coat of flour."

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