

Wenas-Irrigation

Another Big Irrigation Scheme. The Wenas is one of those beautiful valleys which cluster jewel-like around Yakima. It has but one drawback, and that is a lack of water--or rather the lack of the application of water for irrigating the higher lands. This is to be overcome if skill and capital can do it. The settlers have organized and employed an engineer to make the surveys with a view of taking water from the Yakima river to some point near the mouth of the canyon, , building a ditch with a fall sufficient to run an immense turbine wheel which is to carry the water onto the bench lands. At a meeting held last Saturday much interest prevailed and \$8,000 was immediately subscribed to the enterprise and assurances given that if the scheme was found practicable, sufficient money would be forthcoming to complete the work. It is estimated that between thirty and forty thousand acres of the most productive land would thus be redeemed and placed under cultivation--The Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. April 4, 1889.

Irrigation

"North Yakima is the name of a flourishing young city of fully two thousand inhabitants situated in the very central portion of Washington territory. It is not yet four years of age.

It includes thirteen valleys besides a large area of timber land and also takes in a considerable portion of the broad plain of the Columbia. The main stream that drains the region is the Yakima river which takes its rise near two or three small lakes near the crest of the Cascades and meanders down the mountains and through the valleys in a southeasterly ~~joined to the~~ course, joining the Columbia a few miles above its confluence with the Snake. From source to mouth this is a rapid stream having an average fall of fully twenty feet to the mile. It receives a number of tributaries from both sides so when it emerges from the foothills and enters the Columbia it is a river of no mean volume.

One of the principal merits of this Yakima country is a feature that is a serious drawback in many sections, viz: the necessity for irrigation water in order to successfully prosecute farming operations. A small portion of this country does not need irrigation but it is so essential to anything like a complete development of the region that it forms one of the chief questions for the consideration of the prospective immigrant. In the immediate valleys of the streams the soil is light volcanic ash combined with alluvium and in a wild state grows chiefly sage brush. The bench lands carry a heavier soil though its constituent ingredients are not greatly different from that of the valleys and grow both sage brush and bunch grass, the latter predominating and on the higher benches being entirely alone. Except along the immediate margins of the streams this land needs the fructifying influence of irrigation to make it productive. Perfect irrigation may be obtained so easily and kept within such complete control at all times that it is deemed better than the natural rainfall of any region and to those who can understand the peculiar character of the country

this feature needs no commendation.

All the streams of the Yakima country supply irrigation for a greater or less number of farmers. The farmers themselves at very small expense provide their own irrigation ditches in most instances. There are several irrigation enterprises of greater magnitude, however, now in operation and more are contemplated to bring the land farther from the streams under cultivation. The Selah Ditch Company has taken a canal twenty four feet wide and carrying three feet and depth of water out of the Natcheez river some thirty miles above its mouth and conducted it around the foothills into the Selah valley, just north of North Yakima where twenty thousand acres of as fine land as can be found anywhere are being rapidly improved. The head obtained by going so far up the Natcheez to tap the river is sufficient to lead the water over any of the desirable bench lands of that section. ^{Near} North Yakima the Moxee company takes a canal eighteen feet wide and three feet deep out of the Yakima and distributes the water through the beautiful Moxee valley, supplying some two thousand acres belonging to this company along besides a large quantity of other land.

Immediately about North Yakima are the Union, Hubbard, Ahtanum, Schanno and other small ditches which supply the farmers of that section and the city with an abundance of water for all purposes. There have been several schemes for consolidating the numerous small irrigating ditches into one ~~system~~ system and to bring the entire body of arable land about North Yakima about one hundred and two thousand acres, under its influence, but thus far this plan has not been successful. The farmers now provide their own irrigation as they need it but it is likely that some extensive and cheap system will before long supply the whole valley with adequate water giving to those located back from the streams as good service as those on the river fronts. This will be necessary as the land back from the water becomes

settled upon more generally.....

The bunch grass benches afford a range for cattle and sheep that herdsmen were not slow to take advantage of; now there are pastured on the bunch grass range of Yakima county alone--which by no means includes all the region known as the Yakima country nor all that tributary to North Yakima--about three hundred and fifty thousand sheep, one hundred and twentyfive thousand horses and two hundred and fifty thousand cattle.

There is now in the course of construction the Vancouver, Klickitat and Yakima railway from Vancouver on the Columbia river, only six miles from Portland up Lewis pass, crossing the Cascades at Klickitat pass and thence traversing the Yakima valley to the city of North Yakima. This road is important to the Yakima country because it affords another outlet for its products. The Northern Pacific is building a cut off line from Cheney to join the main line again at North Yakima, making a junction and end of operating division at that point....

Even more than a year ago, when the city was not more than half its size, a bill to transfer the present territorial legislative capital from Olympia to North Yakima lacked but one vote of passage in the lower legislative house. In the original plat of the city, grounds were reserved for the state capital and other public buildings. There is plenty of room for growth on all sides. The lumber mills a few miles away and the brick kilns at hand are busily employed in turning out building materials.--The West Shore, partially reproduced in the Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. Thursday May 2, 1889.

Selah Ditch

The logs for the fluming of the Selah ditch are now in the boom at Yeates' mill and work is progressing all along the line. Forty-two men are employed and five additional teams and men are engaged for next week. Work will commence Monday on a mile contract at this end which will require twelve or fifteen additional hands.

Mr. P.M. Meeker of Puyallup has purchased the interest of Messrs Frank and Byron Young in the Selah ditch and has invested \$7,000 in other Yakima property. It is the intention of Mr. Meeker to build a residence in Yakima and make this his home..Yakima Herald, May 2, 1889.

Irrigation:

A local company is being organized for the purpose of taking water from the Natcheez to Wide Hollow. Upwards of \$7,000 has been subscribed in stock and the farmers as yet have not been approached. The ditch would be of immense benefit to the country, and in addition to reclaiming thousands of acres of productive land, would do away with the litigation which has for some time past seemed imminent. Every property holder on the bench, in Wide Hollow, and along the Ahtanum, can afford to subscribe liberally to the enterprise.-Yakima Herald, May 30, 1889.

Sunnyside

Will Build an Immense Canal--Paul Schulze and J.M. Ashton passed through this city on Saturday last bound for the Sound. Mr. Ashton stated that Mr. Schulze was loaded with good news for Yakima and that among other things was the building of the big ditch through the Sunnyside country to the Columbia river. St. Paul and New York capitalists have taken hold of this scheme and will rush it through to completion. This canal will be the largest in the territory, if not in the northwest and will cost several hundred thousand dollars.

It will be of as great advantage to Yakima as the coming of another railroad, as it not only opens up new country, tributary to this city, but will give employment to an army of men and all of the subsistence will be drawn from our home merchants and produce--
Yakima Herald, June 13, 1889.

Natches

The Natcheez ditch to water the Cowychie country and all of the bench lands over to the Wide Hollow is assured. Surveys are now being made for the purpose and enough stock has been subscribed to make success certain--Yakima Herald, June 13, 1889

Irrigation

Much as it is to be regretted there is no denying but what the crops of the Northwest have suffered very severely during the past few weeks from the lack of moisture and the hot dry winds and in some sections have been entirely destroyed.....

The experience of this year should have one beneficial result and that is to stimulate the building of proposed irrigation canals. Wherever the lands in this section have been well irrigated, bountiful crops have been the result and to these irrigated sections is due the fact that Yakima will not experience the backset which will fall to other regions. More irrigating canals however are necessary and especially should the projected ones to cover the higher lands of the Wenas and to carry water from the Natcheez to Wide Hollow be built as soon as possible. These canals, with the extensions proposed and underway of those already built, will practically free this immediate country from danger of draught--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, June 20, 1889.

Selah Ditch

The Selah Ditch--The laborers on the Selah ditch are within sight of each other, but have heavy work before them. They are about ninety men now employed on the works and it is expected the ditch will be finished by October. The flumes are a mile behind the graders but with the heavy work in front, it will take but a few days for them to catch up. The ditch company has already sold considerable water and had it not been for the offices of the corporation the crops of many of the ranchers of the upper Natcheez would have suffered from a shortage of water--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. July 4, 1889.

Irrigation

Editor Herald--Yakima lies in a region where rain cannot be depended upon to produce vegetation. Only through effectual and thorough irrigation can the latent properties of Yakima's soil be brought forth to produce the luxuriant vegetation. It is so situated that an abundant and never failing supply of water could be made to follow through every street. Surrounded as it is by large rivers, few places have its advantages for irrigation.

The soil only needs water and then one would be surprised at what can be grown. The slope of the land is good so that water can flow quite easily. In a dry country land without water is useless and worth nothing. The bring of water upon such land gives it at once a market value and makes it available to produce herbage.

Yakima is in a dry region, without water it will die. Every man who has property or is interested in property here and desires to see it increase in value should take an active interest in the subject of irrigation. We need to have more ditches and the water must be taken from the larger streams, as in case of a very dry season the smaller streams are very liable to fail.

We have enough land here, which if properly irrigated and cultivated would produce all that is needed for home consumption and much for shipment and would prevent all fears of shortage. With plenty of water we can produce an abundance of good and cheap food instead of having to depend upon others at a distance to produce it for us.

We want this town to grow? Do we want to see it become a large and prosperous city in a few years? Then let us increase the number of our ditches and bring all the water possible on the land. I have spent thirty years in an irrigated country; have surveyed and taken contracts for making many ditches and thoroughly understand the subject of irrigation and therefore know what a country with such soil and opportunities for irrigation as this can become.

[Box 41 Yakima (Co) - Irrigation] 51-100

Irrigation
Tietan

H.L. Neall , the representative of Philadelphia capitalists who has been in Yakima for a couple of weeks past has taken a party of six to the Tietan for the purposes of looking into the feasibility of a big irrigating canal from the source to cover the vast bodies of bench land lying to the east and south. Mr. Neal has been doing similar work in Colorado which has proven of great benefit to the country and of profitable revenue to the builders and he is of the opinion that the outlook in Yakima will give better results than the Colorado ventures.

Engineer Hall who is thoroughly versed on the subject of irrigation is with the party. Yakima Herald, July 18, 1889.

Growth

Irrigation

North Yakima has been making splendid progress of late. As many as 200 buildings will be erected there this summer. All the towns of Eastern Washington are seemingly prosperous and the erection of cheap homes enables newcomers to locate.

It is thought that irrigation will be necessary to secure good crops on the broad sage plains around Yakima, and it may be so, but water can be brought from the river, and hundreds of thousands of acres can be made available, if necessary.

When the ground is well plowed, and stirred deep enough to do any good, the grass and sage brush well rotted, they will be surprised to find out what it will do without irrigation.---Portland Oregonian, July, 1889.

[Box 41 Yakima (Co.) - Irrigation]

Irrigation

Builders of Irrigating Canals--A number of heavy capitalists from Helena, Chicago, St Louis and St Joe were in the city Wednesday looking up irrigation projects. These same parties have 170 miles of canals in Montana and have long had their eyes on the Yakima country. In fact their engineers have been here three different times during the past year collecting data. They are well pleased with Yakima and intimated that there was a prospect of their becoming largely interested here--Yakima Herald, August 2, 1889.

Senators Stewart, Hegan and Jones and Messrs Eugene Davis, R.J. Hinson, Dr. Himes, Boswell and Major Powell of the senatorial committee on irrigation arrived at North Yakima Monday evening. The next morning they inspected the system of irrigation followed by the Moxee company and then attended the mid-day meeting of the Chamber of Commerce where it was generally discussed.

Special information was gathered regarding the possibilities of government storage of water at Priest's rapids and at the head of the Tietan and the request was made by the senators that further information be gathered and forwarded to them to be embodied in their report as they were greatly interested in what they had seen in Yakima.

Major Powell, of the geological survey, expressed himself as of the opinion that at no point in the United States had it been better demonstrated that irrigation is an important factor in the dense population of the west, than here in North Yakima. Senator Stewart said he had viewed the Yakima country with much interest as he had an opportunity to see operation of an irrigation system similar to that which he is familiar with in Nevada.

He said that at no place on his entire trip had he found such a wonderful exposition of the benefits of irrigation as here at North Yakima, and he believed that the theory of Major Powell was better exemplified here where he saw a town-situated in a grove of irrigated trees supported by an irrigated country, than anywhere else--
Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T., August 15, 1889.

Ahtanum Irrigation

On Thursday last Judge W.H. Calkins in his chambers heard arguments in the Ahtanum water case of Sampson vs Harry Roberts et. al, and granted a temporary injunction restraining the defendants from taking more than one-third of the water from wasting the same ^{and} -Yakima Herald, August 29, 1889.

Irrigation

J.D. McIntyre, the chief engineer of the most extensive system of irrigation canals in the northwest, arrived in the city on Monday last and at once placed two full corps of engineers in the field to run lines. The company which will prosecute the work was organized in August and consists of a number of members of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific railroad, Chas. A. Gregory, William J. Brvson and G.A. Young of Chicago and Walter N. Granger, J.D. McIntyre and Albert Kleinschmidt of Helena.

They have entered into a contract and purchased over a million acres of N.P.R.R. land in Washington and Montana and have placed several parties of engineers in the field to lay out the lines of the canals ready for construction. The plans were originated by Chief Engineer J.D. McIntyre, irrigation engineer of Montana, who is also chief engineer of the present company.

The most active field of operation at present will be Yakima in Washington territory and between the West Gallatin and Madison rivers in Montana. In each of these localities the company has bought all the railroad land for a radius of many miles and will build at once a hundred miles of canals in each place.

It is understood that the water and land both will be thrown open to purchase by settlers at low prices as soon as the canals are built.

In the Yakima country it is proposed to irrigate all of the lands from the Yakima river at North Yakima to the Columbia and Engineer McIntyre says that employment will be given to hundreds of men and teams. In addition to the work on the east and north sides of the Yakima it is proposed to build a canal from the headwaters of the Natchez to cover the vast stretch of bench lands to the west of North Yakima.

The proprietors of this great enterprise thoroughly understand the situation and needs of this country and Engineer McIntyre and

Irrigation

Previous to leaving for Montana to be absent for about 10 days Chief Engineer J.D. McIntyre told a Herald reporter that after running over the six ditch lines already surveyed, including the Sunnyside line, he had abandoned them all and decided upon a new line which was far more practicable, would cost \$200,000 less money and would water a much larger area of country.

The canals as rejected by Mr. McIntyre would cost in the neighborhood of a million dollars and would redeem 500,000 acres of arid land. While the Herald is not at liberty to give the lines to be traversed, we can say it will open up an immense body of country directly tributary to North Yakima. The main canal will be over a hundred miles in length and will extend to the Columbia river--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. Sept. 19, 1889.

Irrigation

Nelson Rich has secured the contract to build a ten mile ditch in Eastern Yakima, to extend from "The Horn" to the Columbia. Joseph Baxter, F.C. Sharkey, Nelson Rich and H.J. Snively are the projectors of the enterprise. The line of the ditch has been surveyed and cross-sectioned and active work was commenced by contractor Monday on the fluming and rock cuts. The ditch will have a width of twelve feet on the bottom and the estimated cost is \$20,000--Yakima Herald, Oct. 26, 1889.

The Selah Ditch--The stockholders of the Selah Valley Ditch company will hold their annual meeting for the election of officers in this city, Monday, February 4. Eight of the sixteen miles of the main ditch have already been constructed at a cost of \$19,000 and it is expected to have the balance finished about the middle of the coming summer. The whole cost of the main ditch and the laterals will be about \$60,000. The timber for the fluming is being taken from the Tieton and there are now about 300,000 feet of ~~logs~~ logs cut and waiting the high water of the spring to be floated down to Yeates' mill.

Irrigation

Selah Ditch

Messrs. Fechter and Law have purchased the third interest of Frank and Byron Young in the Selah Valley Ditch Co., the consideration being \$20,000. Mr. Fechter informs the Herald that the work will be pushed to completion and that by spring water will cover 15,000 acres of which the company owns 8,000 acres. Yakima Herald, December 19, 1889.