

The Lower Yakima Ditch. It will be remembered that in January of this year there was a great rush to file on desert lands along the line of the proposed ditch from Kiona to a point opposite Wallula. Thousands of acres were entered at the Walla Walla land office, but shortly afterward it was reported that the Oneida community which was largely interested in the project, had placed their business affairs in the hands of a receiver. This was supposed to have terminated the ditch enterprise. But too much money had been invested in lands large tracts of which were bought from the Northern Pacific, to permit the scheme to lie dormant and recently all arrangements were perfected for going ahead with the work. Engineer Dudley arrived on the grounds Wednesday with his force and is now engaged in running the lines and securing the right-of-way. As soon as these details are arranged, the work of building will be commenced. The ditch will commence below the big bend in the Yakima river and after running a few miles will extend by flume across the river, covering the lower stretch of land on the north side of the Columbia and emptying in that river opposite Wallula. The ditch will be 25 miles long--Yakima Herald, Oct. 3, 1889.

Irrigation

Priest Rapids--Pasco

Engineers have recently placed their instruments on the Columbia river at the highest point of Priest's rapids and the result was that it was found to be 400 feet above sea level.

This measurement was taken with a view of finding whether or not the Pasco country could be watered from the Columbia, but as Ainsworth is 250 feet above sea level and Pasco no less, it is declared impracticable. The fall of the Columbia is so slight in this distance that but for the volume of water the perimeter would cause a friction that would scarcely allow the water to move.

From the head of the rapids to Pasco is almost 60 miles and as the rapids cover a distance of seven to ten miles and the fall is thirty feet, it leaves only twenty feet fall from the foot of the rapids to Pasco, a distance of about fifty miles.

The Yakima river has an estimated fall of fifteen feet to the mile, and it is believed by engineers that this is the only practicable source from which water can be drawn to irrigate the Pasco region--Yakima Herald, November 28, 1889.

Irrigation

Kiona

Mr. Kinsley, the principal man of the Kiona Ditch concern was in the city yesterday on the way to Tacoma, where there will be a meeting of the ditch company. Mr. Kinsley has come from Onedia New York, to make his home in Yakima county and will begin at once building houses at Kiona. He will take active charge of the irrigation works as superintendent and Mr. Dudley will ~~make~~ be made secretary and treasurer. This will make a strong team and will insure great activity in that part of the county during the next few years, until the entire forty thousand acres watered shall be settled and cultivated. Mr. Kinsley called upon the county commissioners on business connected with opening of a new road in that busy locality where he is to make his home--Yakima Herald, January 30, 1890.

Pasco

Irrigation

The boring for artesian water at Pasco has been abandoned. The commissioners of Frankline ounty at their last meeting rescinded the \$1,000 appropriation for the prosecution of the work and sold the property on which the well was located--Yakima Herald, February 20, 1890.

Irrigation

Pumping

G.M. McKinney now has seven of his irrigation pumps in operation in the vicinity of Prosser. He is also figuring with the people of Pasco for a big plant which is guaranteed to lift ten thousand gallons of water per minute a height of 55 feet--Yakima Herald, July 10, 1890.

Irrigation

The Pasco Irrigation district has been formed and it is proposed to take water from the Snake river, elevating it 110 feet from the Snake river, into a canal by means of steam pumps to be located three miles from Pasco. The directors have advertised for bids for the plant and for constructing the canal and also for the sale of bonds to the amount of \$100,000--Yakima Herald, August 14, 1890.

Irrigation

Litigation

Attorney J.B. Reavis returned from Ellensburg Wednesday bringing news of the decision in the celebrated Gray-Geddis irrigation ~~case~~ case determining the rights to the waters of Manastash creek.

The case was tried before Judge C.B. Upton of Walla Walla and there were forty-seven findings. He held that the Manastash Ditch company and the settlers were entitled to water according to the priority of appropriation and settlement.

He further held that the common law doctrine of riparian rights never existed in the arid regions of the Kittitas valley, but that the time of appropriation determined the right to water--Yakima Herald, March 19, 1891.

(More complete text of decision published in Herald, April 2, 1891.

Judge Sol Smith was here Monday ready to try the Ahtanum water cases but as all the parties interested had not been summoned or at least were not present, an agreement was reached for a continuance of the case to the 1st of September--Yakima Herald, May 14, 1891.

Irrigation General

Irrigation

A plan is being originated by a Spokane man to irrigate several thousand acres of sandy land lying along the Columbia river by an immense steam pump or pumps, having a capacity of 1,200 gallons of water a minute.

The owner says it can be run at little expense and that one man could catch enough drift wood during the summer to furnish fuel for the whole year. If this can be operated successfully, it will redeem many acres which are now considered worthless, May 21, 1891.

For some time past A.K. Hiscock of Tacoma, Fred R. Reed, H.B. Scudder and W.L. Steinweg of Yakima have been figuring on a big enterprise which if it proves successful will settle the problem of reclamation of those arid lands which lie above the line of practicable irrigation canals and will prove of incalculable benefit to this section of the country as well as the state at large.

On Monday these gentlemen and associates filed on five sections of splendid land on the upper Moxee under the desert land act and having previously made heavy purchases of odd sections from the Northern Pacific railroad, they now control about 15,000 acres which they purpose to reclaim by a system of artesian wells.

A large and costly boring plant has already been purchased and is on the road here from St. Paul.

Experienced engineers have been engaged and will take charge and push the work with vigor. While the scheme is somewhat speculative these well posted in the boring for artesian water have examined the formation of the land and feel confidence in the success of the issue--Yakima Herald, May 21, 1891.

Irrigation

(Kennewick name)

The Dell Haven Irrigation district which consists of about 10,000 acres of irrigable land in the vicinity of Kennewick has arranged for the sale of her bonds, subject to the condition that the supreme court will hold that an irrigation district can issue bonds for over five per cent of the assessed valuation of district property.

If everything is satisfactory the bonds will be taken by New York parties, who will build the ditch and receive therefor \$1.50 per acre the second and third year and \$2 per acre for sixteen years thereafter, at the expiration of which time the bonds are to be turned over to the district in consideration of a deed of 1000 acres of land under the ditch--Yakima Herald, July 23, 1891.

Irrigation

The section of country lying across the Columbia river from Pasco is just now suffering from a severe drought caused by the arrest for trespass of a body of laborers who were engaged in the construction of an irrigating ditch, which it is expected will cover 16,000 to 18,000 acres of fine land.

From a gentleman recently from the scene of war, the following particulars are learned:

There have been two irrigating companies formed and the surveys made, the object in each case being to place under irrigation the same land extending along the Columbia river from opposite Wallula to the mouth of the Yakima river.

One of these companies is called the Dudley company, a man by that name having purchased the odd sections throughout from the railroad company and had made surveys for a ditch which would cover all the land.

His surveys provided for taking water from the Yakima river about two miles below Kiona and carrying it along the side-hills for over 12 miles, thus commanding the level land along the river.

Another company, called the Leadbetter company, was formed whose survey paralleled that of the Dudley company and intended taking water from about the same point on the river. The Leadbetter company, about two weeks ago, got a force of men on the ground and began work, but were not permitted to do much, Dudley having the whole gang arrested on a charge of trespass, the point where they take the water from being one of the odd sections he had purchased from the railroad company. The Dudley company also have about a hundred men on the ground and will begin the work of excavating this week..Walla Walla Union Journal, January, 1892.

Irrigation

desert lands

Some years ago J.M. Baxter filed on a section of very valuable land at the mouth of the Yakima river under the desert land act.

He made strenuous efforts to get water the land by means of irrigating ditches but in every instance failed.

Finally he consulted with G.M. McKinney who represents the Nye irrigating pump and was prevailed upon to put in a No. 6 Nye pump which had proved a success in other localities.

The scheme worked to a charm and Mr. Baxter, at a minimum cost, was enabled to secure all the water he required.

On the 30th of January he went before the officers of the Walla Walla land district and made proof and Register Ross stated that it was the most complete and best desert land proof ever offered in that office--Yakima Herald, February 11, 1892.

WhiteBluffs

Irrigation

Edwin W. Craig has on his section of land at white Bluffs the largest waterwheel in this country.

The diameter is forty feet and each compartment for water is 12x14 x 6 feet.

Every revolution of the wheel carries 3,300 gallons..Yakima Herald, May 28, 1892.

Irrigation

The state irrigation association that was organized in this city last year, will meet at Ellensburg on the 15th inst.

It is said that an incident of the meeting will be the breaking of the sod for the projected big ditch--Yakima Herald, August 11, 1892.

Reports are current that Capt. J.T. Kingsbury has filed a notice of appropriation of the waters of Bumping lake. This body of water was appropriated by the N.P. Y & K I Co. but it is claimed that their rights have expired by limitation, although the company has done considerable work there within two years, and Superintendent James Stuart with a force of men is now there constructing a dam--Yakima Herald, August 11, 1892.

Irrigation

The next meeting of the state irrigation association will be held in this city on October next when the following questions will be discussed:

The National government and irrigation; state legislation and irrigation; the district irrigation law; sources of water supply for irrigation; methods of applying water for irrigation purposes and effects of irrigation on soils and crops--Yakima Herald, August 25, 1892.

Columbia

Dr. N.G. Blalock of Walla Walla has contracted the irrigation fever and he is now having a large wheel built to be used in pumping water on an extensive body of land he owns near Blalock station on the Columbia.

He plans to build two scows, 8 X 30 feet, between which will be placed a current wheel twenty-four feet in length and fourteen feet in diameter. On each scow will be four large pumps attached by gearing to the large current wheel.

The scows will be anchored in the Columbia river and by the natural current the river will revolve the large wheel which will furnish the motive power for working the pumps.

Attached to the pumps will be water pipes into which the water will be pumped and raised about sixty feet and then turned into a large ditch from which the thousands of acres of land will be irrigated by small ditches--Yakima Herald, December 22, 1892.

Irrigation

Dr. N.G. Blalock of Walla Walla and associates have filed a claim for the exclusive riparian right to 2,000 cubic feet of water per second from Big Lake , otherwise known as Lake Colville, situate a few miles from Sprague.

The project is to build a reservoir at Big Lake for storing water to be used in irrigating the arid lands of Franklin county.

Cow creek and the Palouse river are to furnish an outlet for a certain point where a ditch will be constructed to carry the water directly to the parched Pasco.

The length of the canal will be 50 miles and it is estimated that over a million dollars will be required for its construction. It is claimed that Dr. Blalock has interested eastern capitalists in the scheme and has secured sufficient funds to push the work ahead--Yakima Herald, February 23, 1893.

Irrigation

The formal transfer of completed Kennewick Canal system to the Dell-Haven Irrigation district from the Yakima Irrigation and Improvement company took place on the 17th inst.

The improvement company have been engaged for three years in the construction of these canals and have expended over \$200,000 in prosecuting the work.

Thus we are fortunate in having a corporation in our midst who are an element of strength and a benefactor to the community rather than an oppressor of the people as so often happens--Yakima Herald, October 26, 1893.

Irrigation-Snake River

E.H. Libby passed through the city this morning en route from Boston to Portland.

He says he has concluded the sale of his bonds to the amount of \$150,000 for the Snake river irrigation scheme and that work will soon be commenced, the engineer now being on his way out. The bonds according to Mr. Libby, were sold on very favorable terms which were due mainly to their being backed by Charles Francis Adams, president of the Union Pacific--Yakima Herald, Feb. 6, 1896.

A Chicago capitalist is about to launch on the Snake river a veritable floating mining camp. On the boat there is a good-sized boarding and lodging house to accommodate 150 miners, an immense stationary engine and boilers, together with dredges and pumps of all sizes.

This mechanical boat battery will move up and down the Snake river working the banks for gold--Yakima Herald, Feb. 20, 1896.

Snake River

E.H. Libby, representing the Lewiston Water & Power Co. has started a town on the Washington side of the Snake river which he calls Lewiston.

There he carried out his irrigation scheme watering asction of the country which he calls Vineland. He is endeavoring to have the Washington Lewiston and the Idaho Lewiston connected by means of a bridge across the Snake--Yakima Herald, Jan. 28, 1897.

O.R. Holcomb, the state commissioner of arid lands has filed his biennial report with Governor Rogers.

The report estimates that there are about 3,000,000 acres of arid lands in the state and of these at least 1,000,000 acres can be profitably irrigated. Experience has demonstrated that irrigation under the control of the state is most economical and successful to the farmers and that when properly controlled, irrigated farms are the most profitable as yielding the greatest returns. It is therefore suggested in the report that the state take control of all irrigation development as done in Wyoming and other western states to the extent of regulating the use and distribution of streams and bodies of water, keeping in view vested rights and the rights of prior appropriations.

The greatest region in the state in which irrigation is at present carried on is doubtless the Yakima country. In this region irrigation has hitherto been obtained by comparatively cheap and expensive systems.

The lower levels of land in this section have, however, all been practically covered by irrigation systems, leaving the higher levels yet to irrigate, which must of course be of greater cost per acre.

A system to cover about 215,000 acres of the higher lands of this section was projected by Col. L.S. Howlett in 1895. This system provided for a main canal 150 miles in length, taking water from the Wapachez river. Under this system were selected 85,566.97 acres of public lands, vacant, and the total estimated cost of the system is \$2,824,000. There were of public, private and railroad lands under this system a total of 285,000 acres of irrigable land, making the cost per acre for irrigating 00 under this system \$9.90.

A reconnoissance has also been made during the past three months to develop a water supply of about 10,000 acres of land lying north and

Kiona ditch

Frank A. Dudley who was here last week from Niagara Falls, N.Y. to look into his irrigation interests in the eastern part of the county, returned home Saturday. He owns the Kiona ditch, covering 3,000 acres and is a stockholder in the Yakima-Columbia corporation which at one time projected the Kennewick and lower Yakima canals.

His investigations enabled him to come to no positive conclusion as to the recommendation he would make to his eastern associates. Nothing can be done until the dissolution of the irrigation district is accomplished and just what steps will be taken toward this end have not been determined.

The company has a contract with Nelson Rich for the completion of the lower Yakima ditch but otherwise no plans have been formulated for finishing their various tied up enterprises.

Mr. Dudley will be here again after election for further investigations--The Yakima Republic, August 31, 1900.