

Tieton dam

After eight years spent at Rimrock in the midst of the great activity occasioned by the building of the huge Tieton dam, J.C. Ralston, government purchasing agent now sees the end of his work in sight.

During this time Mr. Ralston has watched a mountain gorge untouched by the hand of man, grow into the greatest dirt dam of the world.

Every piece of equipment used, every load of material that went into the dam, every article of stock for the supply store and every morsel of food fed to the workmen passed through Mr. Ralston's hands on paper and received his okeh before being purchased. He knows this side of the story of the dam well.

Work on the project was first started on January 6, 1917, with the construction of the road to Rimrock. Mr. Ralston arrived on February 3 when the camp was an infant. At that time there were about 30 men engaged in freighting supplies and material. There is little about the place as it now looks to remind him of its appearance then. Cabins and buildings soon sprang up and the place became a miniature city with its own water, light and steam heating systems.

At its height Rimrock contained some 400 cottages, a hotel, hospital, store, mess hall and pool room. All the amusement of the workers was built by the government. On an average of 400 men were employed on the project, the number ranging from a minimum of 400 to a maximum of 600. All that is left of this busy little camp is a group of 40 cottages and warehouse.

For the most part, life at camp ran on as smoothly as in any small city and was nearly as domestic. Many men brought their wives and children to live there while they worked. During the last three years of construction 150 families lived at

Rimrock. The reclamation service maintained its own store, carrying a \$12,000 stock. The store handled a complete line of wearing apparel, dry goods and groceries.

As purchasing agent Mr. Ralston bought on an average of \$350,000 worth of material, supplies and equipment yearly. Purchase was made by the carload and were brought to the main warehouse at Naches C_{ty} where they were checked and stored. From Naches they were freighted and hauled by truck to the warehouse at Rimrock. Here they were apportioned out to the different departments. A stock ranging in value from \$75,000 to \$100,000 was maintained constantly at Rimrock.

The largest single order was for an electric shovel which cost ~~\$66~~ \$63,000 delivered. One contract for cement amounted to ~~\$69~~ \$68,000 but called for delivery over a period of several months.

The most exciting event at the camp, Mr. Ralston believes, was the flood in the winter of 1917. It started with an 18-inch snow on Thanksgiving day which was followed by almost daily rains until December 23. The work on the dam proper had not begun but the road was washed out, causing nearly \$30,000 damage.

The camp was without fresh meat and mail for two weeks and food supplies were rationed. Mr. Ralston made the trip on horseback after the mail when the road finally became passable. He found 40 sacks accumulated much of it holiday mail. He found he could bring only eight sacks so he took all the first class mail and as many Christmas packages as possible. It was some time before trucks could get through with the rest.

The fire of May, 1919 was another exciting event in camp life. Starting in the hotel it destroyed that building, the hospital and six ~~cottages~~ cottages. The cause was never known.

tieton

labor imported

Forty-two Austrians for work on the government project in the Tieton were brought into the city Saturday morning by Bert Eva, well known employment agent of Portland.

After scouring the city for several days to secure men, local employment agents gave up the task as a bad job and it was absolutely necessary to call on agents from the coast.

Rimrock

Assurance that the Rimrock road will be kept open to the public the coming year and maintained in passable condition was made at the conference late yesterday afternoon in the county commissioners office at which representatives of the federal reclamation and forestry departments and the county officials adopted a maintenance program for 1926.

Each of the three departments agreed to contribute \$300 toward the maintenance of the road. The county will furnish the graders and tractors necessary to the upkeep. While the road will not be maintained like a boulevard, it will be kept in good enough condition so it may be used by automobiles. The entire 24 miles of the Naches road to the dam will be kept up in this fashion.

J.L. Lytel, represented the reclamation service. E.J. Finley the forestry department and Commissioners George Alexander and W.L. Barker the county. If any individuals or organizations see fit to contribute funds to the road that amount will be added to the amount already subscribed.

Since completion of the Rimrock dam during the summer and announcement from the reclamation officials that they would discontinue all maintenance on the road, there have been numerous conferences. A toll road was favored by those who attended a meeting called by the Chamber of Commerce.... The Yakima Herald, Oct 14, 1925.

Tieton Reclamation

June 8 is the date upon which the opening of the Tieton project is to be formally celebrated by the people of the Yakima valley...

The secretary of the interior has fixed the maximum unit for the subdivision of excess private lands under the Tieton irrigation project at 40 acres of irrigable land. This information is contained in a dispatch received by the Republic from the department of the interior at Washington today.

The secretary in accordance with this ruling has directed that the public lands be divided as far as practicable into farm units containing not more than 40 acres and not less than 20 acres of irrigable land.

In addition the dispatch contains the following:

"Land owners under the Tieton project will be permitted to retain 80 acres of irrigable land. It is expected that early this summer it will be possible to prepare for promulgation, before the irrigation season of 1911, township plats showing the irrigable lands, public and private which can be placed under irrigation under the provision of the reclamation act during the irrigation season of 1911.

"The soil of this section is volcanic ash overlaid with hard pan and is considered exceedingly fertile. The climate is mild with only occasional extremes of heat and cold. The growing season is long and practically rainless and the principal products are hay, hops and fruit.

"The general belief is that the Tieton land will be used largely for fruit raising and old farmers in that vicinity consider that 10 acres of fruit land are sufficient for a family. The chief markets are the Puget Sound cities, Spokane and the East. Hay is usually shipped to the

sound and the bulk of fruit and hops goes to the east--"

Yakima Republic, March 18, 1910.

Reclamation

The secretary of the interior has approved the report of the board of engineers submitting plans for securing additional storage capacity to provide 40,000 acre feet of water for the lands under an extension of the Sunnyside canal.

This storage is to be obtained at Lake Kachess where, in addition to the present available storage, the requisite amount can be obtained by deepening the drainage channel from the natural lake and providing regulating works for the same which will be a part of the permanent construction on the ultimate plan from Lake Kachess storage reservoir.

The work will be partly earth excavation, it is estimated and will cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000--Yakima Republic,
February 28, 1910.

of 700 have been employed at one time.

The work of the reclamation service on the "ieton is confined to the "ie@00 "aches division at the present time. This unit it is planned to have completed and ready for irrigation during the 1910 season. Yakima "epblic, January 7, 1910.

Reclamation

The largest amount of money spent in any individual enterprise in the Yakima valley during the year just closed was disbursed through the office of the U.S. reclamation service in the city at the corner of B and North Fourth avenue. The amount is approximately \$850,000, \$350,000 in supplies and \$500,000 in labor.

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the amount spent for labor was paid out in the lower valley. Approximately \$700,000 represents the permanent improvement in the vicinity.

All of the \$700,000 spent will effect development of the arid lands tributary to North Yakima, the lands that come under the Tieton of which there are some 30,000 acres. Figuring 10 acres to a family this is enough to support a family of four comfortably, and will under production, support 3,000 families.

With this section tapped by the electric line which is now projected into the vicinity, North Yakima will be the commercial trading city for some 12,000, almost the population of the city.

There are hundreds of thousands of dollars yet to be spent in developing the Tieton scheme. The work at Bumping lake that yet remains to be done will consume the greater part of next season and there is the work on the laterals and distribution system.

The work on the Bumping lake project, which is a part of the Tieton project did not cease this year until December 1.

Bumping lake elevation is 1900 feet higher than North Yakima. The lake is situated up in the mountains where the snow flies early in the year.

Up in the mountains a reservoir is being constructed to store the surplus waters and snow of the winter which will seek the lake from the surrounding watersheds. This water is being stored to replace water that will be taken from a tributary to the Naches river, the Tieton, to water the Tieton acres. The waters of the Naches river having already been appropriated, it is necessary to provide for such replacement.

The Dumping river flows from Dumping lake down the Dumping canyon into the Naches. A half a mile below the outlet of the lake a dam is being built. On either side between the dam and the lake are high hills. This immense area will eventually become a part of the lake.

Two hundred and fifty thousand yards of dirt are necessary for the construction of the dam. It is 3,500 feet long. In the bed of the river is an outlet pipe. Through this by means of gates the flow of the Naches is regulated. At the west end of the dam is a spillway to allow surplus waters to flow over the obstruction without the necessity of regulation.

The stretch of canal from the headgates to the distribution system is the main canal. The canal from the headgates winds through rocky hills and tunnels.

The rest of the project is divided into three parts commonly known as the first, second and third units.

The first unit is referred to by the reclamation service as the Naches system. It is located between the north fork of the Cowlitz and the Naches rivers.

Work on the main canal in the Tieton was completed last August. The largest number of men employed on the project at any one time was 350 during the season and past season. As many

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Irrigation

Sunnyside

R.K. Tiffany will be assistant to Project Engineer E. McCullough in the construction and maintenance department of the Sunnyside project.

He will look after the field work along the canal. The office of irrigation manager, which has been held by Walter N. Granger will be abolished on February 15 and the work will be looked after directly by the project engineer.

(Effective February 15, 1910.)

Under the management of Walter N. Granger the headquarters have been maintained at Zillah but in the future the headquarters will be carried on much as present, at Sunnyside.

The secretary of the interior has awarded contracts to E.J. Ward of Prosser for construction of east lateral and sub laterals under the Byron division of the Sunnyside unit, Yakima irrigation project. The contract involves the excavation of 15,100 cubic yards of material, the furnishing and placing of pipes, culverts, flumes and measuring boxes and two eight-foot open bridge apertures. The contract price is \$4,534. Yakima Republic, Feb. 4, 1910.

The yearly report of Walter N. Granger, former manager of the Sunnyside canal has just been filed with the director of the U.S. reclamation service at Wash. D.C. It is filed as a statement of results obtained under the Sunnyside canal from Nov. 1, 1909 to October 31, 1909.

"During the past year the Sunnyside district has made a material growth both in population and in area of land under irrigation. There were two new units opened for water, one under the extension of the canal comprising an area of 3916

acres and another under the Mabton district served by the Mabton siphon of 2,489 acres.

"The population is estimated to have increased from 17,000 to 19,500 the increase coming mostly from the middle western states and largely comprised of American farmers.

"Water was delivered to an acre of 47,000 acres as against 42,000 the year before, an increase of 4,700 acres.

"One new line of railroad was projected through the country, the North Coast and is now under construction, besides the Northern Pacific branch which now taps the center of the district, is being extended at both ends to connect with the main line track, thus forming a loop which it is expected will be used as a part of a double track system.

"The towns of the district, Zillah, Granger, Sunnyside and Grandview have made substantial growth and a number of new manufacturing plants have been built such as fruit and vegetable canneries, alfalfa mills, in addition water works and lighting plants and an electric power line has been run through the valley. Also the building of a system of modern roads by the county was commenced.

"The amount of water delivered to the land was 3.47 acre feet per acre. The total cost of maintenance and operation was \$41,000. On the basis of 47,000 acres irrigated the cost per acre was 87.3 cents.

"During a normal fruit year the average yield per acre of apples is 14 tons, pears 12 tons, peaches 10 tons, plums 10 tons, prunes 10 tons, grapes 12 tons, timothy and clover 5 tons, hops, one ton; alfalfa seven tons, potatoes eight tons, oats 85 bushels and corn 80 bushels.

"The fruit crop in the Yakima valley during the season was largely

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~~—Langer report~~

below the average of the last 20 years. The shortage in the crop was particularly made up by reason of the prevailing high prices and the prices received for the other crops were above the average of former years.

"It is estimated, and this estimate is based upon approximate crop returns, that the total value of the crops produced in the Sunnyside district was \$3,000,000.

The average value of crops produced, based upon an irrigated area of 47,000 acres, was \$63.83 per acre. This result however is slightly misleading for the reason that at least 20 per cent of the irrigated area was in young fruit trees and not yet in bearing and also in alfalfa and other permanent crops not seeded this year. This does not include the value of the increase in livestock and the sale of dairy products." The bulk of the report includes letters from individuals etc.. Yakima Republic, Feb 4, 1910.

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Irrigation

Selah

Ira P. Englehart, former manager and president of the Selah Canal ~~system~~ system is sending out circular letters to the owners of water rights and the users of water under the Selah valley canal in which he asks them to select four persons to act with one person to be named by Mr. Englehart as a board of trustees of the Selah Water company.

He asks that these four persons should be chosen as soon as possible to take up the management of the canal for 1910.

In this way the users of the canal will control the management of the system and will practically have charge of it. Each acre of land will be entitled to one vote.

In the letter Mr. Englehart points out that the canal system is in good shape and is paying a net income of \$4415.48 above running expenses. Mr. Clift will continue to get the canal in shape for 1910 so that the proposed board can begin service by April 1, 1910

".....None of us will live always and the canal will probably run for all time so I think it proper for the best interests of all concerned that the land owners and water users take up the question of operating the canal. The total income from the water rents of the canal is \$10,690.48 per year. The cost of cleaning out the ditch etc. each year should be about \$1,000." The Yakima Republic, January 28, 1910.

The management of the Selah valley canal is to be taken over entirely by the water users and there remains only a few minor matters to be considered before this is finally accomplished. This was the result of a meeting held by the water users on Friday afternoon in Kings hall in Selah at which there were present about 140 who are interested.

President Ira P. Englehart was present and presided.

It was suggested that the water users get together and organize and appoint four of the five trustees. With this in view two committees were appointed to report at a meeting to be held on February 12. The committees which will meet with Englehart and other officers of the canal is composed of Messrs Forney, McKee, George Dean, F.C. Henry and Armstrong. The committee to inspect the canal is composed of the Messrs Joe H. Lancaster, Walter Rowe, Leonard, Olson and Dr. Cornue.

The Selah Development company with Ira Englehart as president and manager took over the canal when it was a very inefficient ditch. They took it out of embarrassment and litigation and made it as good as any of the longer and larger canals in the county.

It is pointed out that those under the canal that they have a cheaper rate of maintenance than almost any of the other important canals. The cost under the old system is \$10 an acre and \$1.25 under the extension. This brings in \$10,690 or more a year more than is needed to keep up, manager and patrol the canal.

It is pointed out that the Selah-Moxee canal costs about \$2 an acre and the Congdon canal watering Nob Hill costs about the same. Walter Clift is assistant to Mr. Englehart--Yakima Republic, Feb. 4, 1910.

Owners and users of the Selah ditch elected five members of a board of trustees Saturday to serve for a period of two months and to complete arrangements for taking over of the management of the ditch by the owners and users.

The Selah Water company's ditch irrigates about 12,000 acres of land and this week's move will mean that the affairs of the ditch will pass into the hands of the farmers, land owners and users. The land owners and water users number about 250 under the Selah ditch, many of whom make their residence in North Yakima. The meeting was held in King's hall at Selah.

...The following comprise the newly elected board of trustees who to whom the incorporation details were referred:

James Lancaster, Dr. J.S. Kloeber, C.L. Bradley, George H. Biehn and W.B. Armstrong. The board will elect officers and will negotiate with ditch company owners, officers Ira P. Englehart, present manager of the company had asked the owners and users to take over the affairs saying they could give better service--The Yakima Republic, Feb. 18, 1910.

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Reclamation-Tieton

Prosser

Canal construction on the Tieton unit of the Yakima project will be sufficiently advanced during the irrigation season of 1910 to allow the furnishing of flood water to approximately 10,000 acres this year.

The lands are in private ownership and are located in townships 13 and 14, range 17, townships 13 and 14 range 18 and township 14 range 16.

The secretary of the interior has granted authority to furnish this flood water on a water rental basis in the irrigation season at a rate of \$1.50 per acre for the season to those water users within the first unit of the Tieton project who made application for such service before March 1, 1910 or at such time thereafter as portions of the lateral system of the Tieton canal are completed or as deemed advisable by the assistant supervising engineer.

The secretary of the interior has formally approved a plan whereby the reclamation service may undertake to furnish water to about 2,200 acres of land in the vicinity of Prosser during the season of 1911. The conditions to be complied with in general are as follows:

That the building charge for lands which have a water right from the Prosser Falls Land & Power company as shown by the abstract of title and reports of the company which have been submitted to the office of the reclamation service at North Yakima be fixed at \$ 31 per acre; that the building charge to lands without water rights be fixed at \$52 per acre, the same as for other lands in the Sunnyside project and that the operation and maintenance charges for all such lands be the same as are fixed from time to time for other lands in the Sunnyside project...

That before construction is authorized at least 90 per cent of the lands having a Prosser Falls Land & Power company water right and 90 per cent of the lands having no such water right or a total amount of land which will give in equivalent return in money on the basis of such building charges must be subscribed for in the Sunnyside Water Users' association in 1900 and the town of Prosser must enter into a proper contract with the United States for the supplying of the town with water for irrigation purposes subject to the stipulations that should the town secure the release to the United States of 2 - 1-2 cubic feet of water per second, being part of the five cubic feet of water per second held by the Prosser Falls Land & Power company for irrigation purposes the town of Prosser will receive a credit on account of the charges under such contract to the extent of \$2,900.

A relinquishment to the United States of 25 cubic feet of water per second by the Prosser Falls Land & Power company free of all liens conditions or charges of any kind.

The securing without cost to the United States of all necessary right of way for pipe lines, canals and incidental structures for the works necessary for carrying out this agreement.

The secretary directs the reclamation service that when these conditions are satisfactorily fulfilled construction of the works necessary to irrigate the Prosser lands may be undertaken and that such construction shall be taken up in advance of the commencement of work for any pumping plants for the Sunnyside project--The Yakima Republic, January 28, 1910.

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Reclamation-Sunnyside

Walter N. Granger of Zillah has been completely exonerated of the charge preferred against him by the trustees of the Sunnyside Water Users' association. He is manager of the Sunnyside canal.

The word was received from Washington D.C.,

The exoneration comes from the secretary of the interior, R.A. Ballinger, and approve of the recommendation that all charges complaints and criticism filed against Mr. Granger be dismissed.

It contained the following conclusion:

"That Walter N. Granger has in no way been guilty of discrimination, irregularities or misconduct in his management of the Sunnyside reclamation project and that instead of criticism he is entitled to commendation from the government for the faithful, honest and efficient manner in which he has discharged his official duties as irrigation manager for said project and commendation from the people residing under the system and receiving water therefrom.. Further, I consider Mr. Granger one of the most thorough irrigationists I have ever come in contact with and that his administration of affairs concerning the Sunnyside reclamation project and his dealings with the water users association have been fair, impartial and honest and that he is entitled to credit therefor..." The Yakima Republic, January 14, 1910.

Sunnyside water users of the Sunnyside Water Users association Saturday reelected the old board of trustees the story of whose dealings with the reclamation service in the year past has not been a tale of unmitigated harmony. The majority was from 100 to 4500 over 40,000 acres of land being represented by votes cast on the

basis of a vote per acre.

The trustees elected were: George Rodman, Arthur Gurley,
P.J. Mc Quesenbury, R.H. Bone, A.L. Artz, J.F. Donahue and
F.W. Morris.....Yakima Republic, January 14, 1910.