

Reclamation

The Banker reclamation bill veto came before the house at 2 o'clock with Representative M.M. Moulton of Benyon county leading discussion of the bill.

Olympia, Dec. 1.—A bill authorizing the modification of contracts and the appropriation of \$10,000 for the immediate relief of soldier settlers on the White Bluffs-Hanford project in Eastern Washington was passed by the house of the Washington legislature here today by a vote of 87 to 1. Representative Morton of Spokane was the one member voting against the measure. Nine representatives were absent.

Under the bill a committee composed of one representative, one senator and the director of conservation and development would have the power to modify any existing contracts or cancel such contracts and repay the soldiers. The Yakima Republic, Dec. 1, 1925.

Contracts between the state of Washington and the United States and the Kittitas reclamation district and the United States relative to the construction and settlement of the Kittitas reclamation project were received by J.L. Lytel, superintendent of the United States bureau of reclamation today.

Both contracts are signed by Hubert Work, secretary of the interior. A duplicate of the original copy of the contract between the Kittitas reclamation district and the United States will be sent to Ellensburg officials of the Kittitas reclamation district today by Mr. Lytel.

The contract between the Kittitas reclamation district and the United States provides for the construction of the Kittitas reclamation system. In the contract the United States agrees to pay \$9,000,000 for the construction of the system which, when completed, will irrigate approximately 70,000 acres of land. The contract is subject to appropriation being made by congress, from year to year of sufficient funds to carry on the work reclamation officials are authorized to secure the necessary rights of way.

When the land under the Kittitas system is ready for settlement a public notice will be posted announcing the costs of construction per irrigation acre. Commencement of payments will be when the agricultural development of the lands is sufficient to warrant such payments. They must start within five years after the posting of the first notice.

Payments will be made in annual installments based on the productive power of the land. Five per cent of the average gross annual income will be used in determining the rate of payment. Production returns will continue until the total construction cost is repaid to the federal government. The Yakima Republic, Dec. 30, 1925.

First guns in the battle for a definite and accepted state reclamation policy will be fired in Yakima this week in connection with the meeting of the Washington Irrigation institute, Feb. 10-11

Gov. R.H. Hartley will speak in defense of his opinion that the state should abandon reclamation activities and the joint legislative reclamation committee will be on hand to formulate its views which are not likely to be in accord with those of the governor.

Members of the joint committee, Senators Ralph Metcalf and D.V. Booth and Morthland and Representatives M.M. Moulton, George Meacham and W.E. Banker are scheduled to hold their first conference here in connection with the irrigation institute. The Yakima Republic, February 8, 1926.

Prospect of settlement of legal battles lasting 15 years between the water right owners and the Black Rock Power & Irrigation company appears excellent.

Field work, preparatory to estimating the cost of reconstructing the ditch of the Consumers' Ditch company, a bone of contention, is nearing completion by Marvin Chase, ex-state engineer and A.J. Appleby. Their report will be submitted to the company as a preliminary to negotiations for agreement.

About 10,000 acres in the Priest river valley are affected.

When the litigation began 348 water right owners were involved but some of these have since withdrawn.

The owners won in the U.S. circuit court of appeals and efforts of the company to take the case to the U.S. supreme court failed.

Records in the action filed in the federal court in Yakima are the bulkiest do- such documents ever to be placed on record here. The initial transcript covered over 300 pages. The Yakima Republic, April 19, 1926.

Ephrata..

Ephrata celebrates this year the 30th anniversary of Willy Clapp's idea. But for that idea there might be today no Grand Coulee dam, no Hanford atomic energy plant, no million acre-columbia basin irrigation district in the making. Some say there might be millions of Japs in Alaska.

It was William Clapp who in 1918 got into print with the suggestion that the best way to irrigate the Big Bend, discussed then for a quarter of a century was to dam the Columbia use part of the power to pump water into its high dry ice age channel and let the water fan out from the coulee's lower end.

It took 15 years to get the Clapp idea across.

Ephrata dates from 1901, when a three-block townsite was laid out along the Great Northern's main line, then eight years old. It grew slowly for the next 39 years. It has grown more rapidly in the past eight with a present estimated population of 3,400. It has built public utilities for a city of 10,000 and expects to reach that mark before the 1960 census.

Frank Beezley, the first settler, squatted on a section at the present town's west edge in 1889. The locality became known as Beezley Springs. The hills to the north are still called Beezley hills.

Jesse G. Gundersen and Cyrus from Oregon bought Beezley's lands in 1897 and later platted the townsite. Wilson Creek and Quincy were then the largest towns along the Great Northern between Odessa and Wenatchee.

The postoffice, store and hotel were established in 1901 and on the street facing the railroad from the north

Fire took out nearly all the business blocks in 1910 and the town moved its business houses to the next street. That explains the one block jog at the east end of town.

Grant county was carved out of Douglas in 1909 and Ephrata became a temporary county seat, defeating Adrian for the permanent courthouse site by a vote of 945 to 812.

"cyle of fry yeas ruined many farmers between 1905 and 1920 . Many desert towns died.

Ephrata held its own....

Besides the county seat, Ephrata now has the headquarters of the irrigation division of the Columbia basin project, the office of the state Columbia basin commission, six other state offices and two federal branch offices. Great Northern streamliners stop there. Ephrata is the smallest city on the system with this through train service. Ephrata plans to become a wholesaling center for the irrigation districts. To aid in this endeavor efforts are being made to have the Milwaukee railroad extend its Moses Lake branch.

The city is ideally located. Grand Coulee dam is 59 miles north and the Hanford plutonium plant 60 miles south. Spokane is 127 miles east by highway and Seattle is 177 miles. More than half the Columbia basin project is in our county. These are among the reasons we consider our community the capital of an irrigation empire. Spokesman Review, February 22, 1948.

Columbia Basin.

The first part of the Columbia Basin project that will receive water for irrigation farming is the Pasco unit, comprising approximately 5,390 acres northwest of Pasco.

Onto these now dry lands the federal bureau of reclamation will pump water directly from the Columbia river. The system of lateral canals has already been completed and work on the pumping plant is expected to be finished soon so that the first water will probably flow on these potentially rich farm lands this year.

The Pasco lands have been divided into 84 farm units ranging from about 28 acres to about 141 acres.

While the federal government will offer about 15 farm units for sale not for homesteading, on veterans preference basis, most of the available land will be sold by the present largest land owner, the Northern Pacific Railway company. The NP will dispose of approximately 25 large farms.

...The last two large reclamation projects in which the NP has had experience in the settlement of its lands are the Kittitas reclamation and Roza irrigation districts.

All company lands in the Kittitas district suitable for irrigation have been sold. Of 214 farm units owned within the Roza district 161 have been sold and the remaining units, 49, which are located in the pumping area at the lower end of the project in Benton county, will be sold whenever water is available for irrigation. Spokesman Review March 7, 1948.

Irrigation

George Donald has secured the contract for building the Oneida ditch which will tap the Yakima near Kiona and extend to the Columbia. Mr. Donald wants men, teams and sub-contractors, as can be seen by his advertisement in this issue of the Herald.

Washington, March 2-A conclusion that the proposed Columbia Basin project in Washington and Oregon physically is feasible and that attention should be focused upon the factors which will determine the financial feasibility was contained in a report of the special board of engineers made public by the interior department yesterday.

The total cost of the favored plan is estimated at \$193,359,595 or \$158 per acre and the initial expenditure to irrigate the first lands at ~~\$4~~ \$54,000,000.

Listing five basic irrigation schemes under consideration the engineers declared the most desirable ~~one~~ involved 1,224,000 acres, 80 per cent of which is Class A land and utilized both the Spokane river and the Pend O'Reille (copy) river for the water supply.

The engineers' findings are being studied by the Columbia Basin project commission composed of Elwood Mead and Francis M. Goodwin. The latter's final report will be submitted to Secretary Work who will forward it to congress if ~~he~~ it meets with his approval.

Settlement: the possibility of growing diversified crops ; climate, transportation to eastern and foreign markets ; farm credits and the elimination of land speculation are discussed in the report of the examining board consisting of Louis C. Hill , Joseph Jacobs, Charles H. Locher, Richard R. Lyman, Arthur J. Turner and C.L. Walker.

A summary of the board's conclusions follows:

That the e is included in the maximum project which can be served from the Spokane and Pend O'Reille rivers or from Pend O'Reille alone 1,650,000 acres of gravity and 233,000 acres within a 100-foot pumping life making a total reclamation area available of 1,883,000 acres.

"Along the distributing canals," the engineers added, "there are numerous drops and chutes where power may be developed. The amount of such power for the several projects varies approximately as their acreage. On the maximum gravity plan 30 such power sites were selected as practicable and the cost of their development determined.

The combined installed capacity of these plants amounts to 145,000 horsepower and the average cost \$58 per horsepower." The engineers recommended that, wherever developed, the net returns from power should be applied to the retirement of the capital cost of the proposed project.

The first section of the big irrigation canal will be formally opened and the water turned in the latter part of next week. A car load of gentlemen from Tacoma will be present for the occasion and suitable exercises will be held to celebrate the important event. 3-1992

The last spike upon the sidetrack at old town was driven on Saturday last by Mrs. Loudon, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Tague and