

Irrigation - Indians

Chelan

Yakima water users are particularly fortunate in comparison to water users in the Chelan district, L.M. Holt, supervising engineer of the United States Indian service stated today upon his return from a 600 -mile survey trip of Washington Indian reservations.

In Chelan orchardists are paying \$25 an acre for maintenance and operation costs on their water systems, in some cases, and \$18 for 1 1-2 acre feet is a common price in that territory.

The great cost of getting water for lands is laid to the expensive pumping systems used to get water from Chelan and the Columbia river.

One Indian in the Chelan district this year was unable to get more than a fifth of an acre foot for his 40 acre ranch. On the Nespelem reservation which has been practically dry for seven years many farmers are abandoning their lands, unable to carry them through harvest while others are sticking the summer out harvesting no more than seven or eight bushels of wheat to the acre. Orchards in the Chelan district are doing well. One orchard on the Columbia river produced last year 1,000 boxes of apples to the acre.

Holt while on the reservation made several studies of plans to increase the water supply by tapping available streams. He made preliminary sketches of possible projects and will work out some of the main problems at his office here. He was gone for several days covering the entire trip in his car--The Yakima Daily Republic, August 25, 1925.

Wenas dam

Actual construction on the dam for the Wenas Irrigation district by which it is planned to impound 1,300 feet of water for the irrigation of 1,500 acres of land began today.

It will be rushed to completion before freezing this fall according to C.E. Crownover who is the engineer in charge of the job. Construction at the old dam to strengthen and raise it is the result of the organization this spring of the new irrigation district for that section. Yakima Daily Republic, August 6, 1925.

Tieton-Rimrock

John Russell, Tieton
basin pioneer.

Days when the lake formed by the Rimrock dam was the Old Russell ranch, shown above, inaccessible except by foot or horseback and when above that was McAlister meadows where John McAlister pastured his stock are recalled by old timers.

In 1881 John Russell settled in the Tieton basin. He had to pack in all his equipment on horseback down a steep trail. His 160 acre ranch was sold to the government for \$17,000 when the Rimrock dam was decided upon. Russell did not have a patent to the land but the government recognized his claim to it because he settled there so early.

Russell built the log cabin. He packed in a wagon, piece by piece on horseback as he did his farm equipment. The ~~Rimrock Ranch~~ Russell ranch was headquarters for the more adventurous sportsmen while the family lived in primitive ~~so-called~~ style, hibernating when snows made it difficult to get out.

The last seen of McAlister, who lived alone on his homestead above the Russell place was in November, 1912, when he went trapping in the hills. Late the following August his body was found by sheep herders at the headquarters of Indian creek. (copy)

When Fred E. Shaw, coroner at that time went after the body, he and his guides had to leave their cars and ride in by horseback for two or three days to get in and bring it out. Just what had been McAlister's fate was never known.

The Tieton basin received historical mention in 1882-1884 when A. Little went in, cut and floated down logs used in constructing the railroad through Yakima--The Yakima Daily Republic, July 2, 1925. Page three with 3 col picture of cabin.

Reclamation

Tieton dam

Calvin Coolidge, president of the United States forgot his vacation today long enough to send a message about the dedication of the Tieton dam.

"I desire through you to congratulate the people of the state of Washington on the successful completion of the work to conserve the resources of the state which should stand for all time as one of the monumental engineering achievements of the country. I trust your conference with the people of the state of Washington relative to the development of the Kittitas division of the Yakima project will result in a development program that will fully justify this large expenditure by the government," a wire read by the secretary of the interior said.

Before a crowd of 2,000 persons making but a small group in comparison with the massive structure of the great earth fill dam towering above them at Rimrock, the dam was officially dedicated this noon and christened, in accordance with the wishes of the valley pioneers as the Tieton dam.

"In the name of the United States government which made this dam possible through its reclamation service I hereby dedicate the dam to the purposes for which it was built" declared Dr.

Hubert Work, secretary of the interior as he stood in the center of the dam for the dedication ceremony.

Then turning to Senator Wesley L. Jones, Dr. Work asked him to christen the dam because "his cooperation with the reclamation service and the work in every other way has contributed materially to making this possible."

Only yesterday directors of the chamber of commerce had passed resolutions asking that the dam be named the Wesley L. Jones dam but the senator did not hesitate a minute. He spoke briefly of this resolution saying how greatly he appreciated it, but added that his own sentiment is that the wishes of the pioneers should

be carried out . Turning to the pioneer of all the pioneers present, Mrs. Nettie S. lawn Benedict, oldest living white child born in the Yakima valley, Senator Jones concluded by saying: "I ask you, Mrs. Benedict, to christen it, the Tieton dam."

Mrs. Benedict, age 60 and daughter of Capt. William S. lawn shows no signs of age as she grasped the bottle of Yakima apple cider and broke it fairly against the edge of the dam. The cider trickled down, a spot so small it could hardly be seen by those who were massed quite close to it so as not to miss the dedication ceremony.

After the christening there was the usual rush of news photographers. Secretary Work insisted that Mrs. Benedict remove her hat so he could see her and there was an audible chuckle as the pioneer removed it, revealing a bobbed head with glossy black hair.

"I'm a bobber, like the rest of them" she confided. "I just had it done."

Mrs. Benedict in her early days homesteaded on the Columbia river near Priest Rapids but for the past 18 years has been making her home in Tacoma. She was tremendously impressed by the change that has taken place in the valley since the days of "W dust and sagebrush" and also confessed to a great pride that she had been selected to participate in the dedication.

..As the bottle of cider was broken ~~valves~~ both valves were opened and two great waterfalls, 1000 acre feet each, spashed down into the river.

Earlier in the day the persons who assembled at the dam were shown over the work by J.L. Lytel, Yakima project manager and the E.L. Tice and Superintendent . and Dr. Elwood Mead was a member of the party. Fully 300 cars made the trip to Rimrock this morning. One way-traffic was the rule. Bert Sparrow, the human fly, contributed

bit by climbing the pinnacle and placing a United States flag at the very peak. Later in the day he will attempt an ascent against time.

Dr. Work was the second speaker after Senator Jones. He stated that he could easily speak for an hour telling about the claims of the valley to fame. Some of them he listed as its land, its climate, its water and pears at \$75 a tone.. Yakim Daily Republic, Thursday, July 2, 1925.

Contains big pictures of dam, inside and outside pages.

Rimrock--Reclamation

After having been in the government reclamation service on the job at Rimrock as superintendent of construction since the beginning of the dam, C.A. Williams with his wife left this morning by auto for Guernsey, Wyo, where he is to have charge of construction work on a project there in the same capacity.

Mr. Williams was not certain where he would go from here until instructions were received yesterday directing him to report on the Wyoming job within two weeks. He and his wife had hoped to have a month vacation.

His instructions granted the privilege of bringing along any of the crew he desired and accordingly 10 of the families that have been on the Rimrock job will leave for Guernsey tomorrow. Williams has been in the employ of the government reclamation service for 15 years or more and has been in charge of construction work on several projects in the northwest before coming to Rimrock, one being that of the Granger Pipe line and another being the pumping plant at Pasco. He was also similarly employed during the construction of the Arrowrock dam. Williams will be located at Guernsey on the construction job there for the next three years.

Although the project is under the federal reclamation service the construction has been turned over to a private construction company. A brother, Frank Williams, is employed in the county auditor's office--Yakima Republic, May 12, 1925

Mr. Ralston expects to remain at Rimrock until fall when a sale of all remaining machinery, supplies and equipment will be held. at Naches C,ty. There will be about \$100,000 worth of material to dispose of at this time. After that he ~~hoped~~ his plans are indefinite but he expects to remain in Yakima. He says he likes the city and has purchased a residence with the intention of making it his home-Yakima Republic, July 2, 1925.

Tieton

Water will not be denied the 96 water users on the Tieton irrigation project whose appeals from the decision of the reclamation service denying them extension of time in which to meet charges have not yet been acted upon according to announcement today by J.L. Lytel, Yakima project superintendent.

Of the 115 appeals made returns have been received from 19, all but one being granted. The water has been turned off on the 30 acres covered by this one application/

This in effect amounts to a further extension for these growers who at first understood their water was to be turned off tomorrow, April 24. ~~It is expected that~~ It is expected that tomorrow's mail will bring word of the department's action upon another batch of appeals. While no appeals or applications for extension will be allowed after tomorrow water will be provided until the pending appeals are taken care of.

Records in the office of Floyd Foster of the Tieton Water Users association show that 1,544 acres of land on the project are now without water because the owners have to date neither paid the delinquent charges nor made application for relief. Much of the land is owned by non residents and considerable of it is not being farmed this year. It is made up of 111 tracts ranging up to 68 acres in size. Some of the back charges on the land may yet be paid and water received, Foster says. Thus far this month the collections by Foster have totaled \$30,000. In some cases growers do not need the water but are waiting for more urgent need before making the payments--
The Yakima Daily Republic, April 23, 1925.

Yakima will pay Ed Forquer \$12,000 for his 200 acres at Oak flat for the city's municipal water system intake, the city commissioners and Forquer finally agreed yesterday afternoon.

Forquer finally agreed after two conferences and lengthy bickering. The commission paid Forquer \$100 down for a six months option. The deal was boosted along by L.O. Janeck, the owner's representative who sold Forquer the land last June for \$9,500.

Forquer declared Friday he would not accept less than \$15,000 and reiterated that demand at the first conference earlier yesterday. J.T. Hedges, commissioner of finance and Henry Traub, commissioner of public work proposed \$11,000 and the two parties were deadlocked until Traub suggested each write down the best price he would consider. Forquer wrote \$12,000.

Forquer will be permitted to use the property the next six months. He said he acquired it as a summer base for his sheep bands with the understanding that he could lease an adjacent tract from Janeck and O.A. Rechter of 1,800 acres. The Forquer tract contains slightly less than 200 acres on both sides of the Naches river. Half interest in a foot bridge located there goes with the property--The Yakima Republic, March 10, 1925.

Out of the 200 exceptions filed to the report of the referee in the Ahtanum water rights case, all were overruled except 26 which were affirmed in whole or in part by the terms of the opinion handed down by Judge V.O. Nicholson last night. Marvin Chase, state supervisor of hydraulics will draft his final decree based on the opinion of the court's findings. This will conclude the controversy unless appeals are taken from it to the state supreme court and there are indications that this may be done in several instances.

Two decisions in the case are outstanding in importance that on the Johncox Ditch company and that on the Mission lands. Rights of the people under the Johncox ditch were taken out by appropriation in 1884 when they tried to gain their rights by construction regardless of the rights of those lower down the stream. It was held by the court that this action was not hostile open or adverse to rights of parties lower down.

Taking of water by the company resulting^{ed} in occasional water shortages farther down stream but the situation thus prevailing was interrupted from time to time and could not be said to be prevailing for the statutory period.

Picturesque stories of the valley's early history are recalled in connection with the settlement of the Mission lands referred to in the decree and the opinion.

Under a claimed right the Jesuit missionaries fenced off 477 acres of land in the Ahtanum believing that they would acquire title to it. As early as 1852 they irrigated and raised hay and gardenstuff.

In the middle 80s different parties settled on various portions of the mission lands, made homestead entries and contested the rights of the bishops and priests to hold the land

All were successful with one exception where 33 acres had been patented by one of the priests. It was the contention of the successors that contesting the rights to possession of the land carried with it the right to possession of the water. After they had secured the land they must also have procured the water and water rights which would date back to the earliest state of use, or at 1852.

Both the court and the supervisor disagreed with this view and allowed water rights from 1852 only on the single tract of 35 acres which were listed as belonging to Andrew Hague, who has 33 acres, and the bishop in Seattle, who has two acres.

Waters of Ahtanum creek have been divided into 30 different classes which have evolved from the earliest claims in 1852 to the latest in 1914 to Wallace Wiley. It required 67 pages of typewritten matter in the first decree to set forth the claims of water users and descriptions of their land. The Yakima Daily Republic, May 1, 1925.

Reclamation

Including the \$20,000 believed to have been part of the department of the interior appropriation bill rushed through in the closing hours of the last congress L.M. Holt, supervising engineer of the Wapato reclamation project will have \$260,000 to expent on the Reservation this year he announced today. Holt has not yet been officially notified of the appropriation but does not think there is any question about it.

Payments amounting to \$60,000 have already been made on the construction charges on the project and Holt estimates that \$100,000 more will be paid out in this spring, making a total of \$160,000 from this source. Estimated income from maintenance charges is \$80,000. This plus the \$20,000 given by congress runs the total up to \$260,000.

Water rights payments which must be made to the reclamation service will make a big hole in this total. On May 1 an installment of \$32,000 will be due and on Jan 1, 1926, \$65,000 more will be paid over unless the amount is reduced before that time.

The Wapato project is paying for a full water right for the 120,000 acres of irrigable land on the Reservation while only 72,000 acres are being watered.

The Indian service however does not object so much to this as it means that when the water is needed it will be there. Further development of the Wapato project will bring into use some of the water to be stored in the Tieton dam at Rimrock.

Holt dosen't see why there should be so much talk as to what is to become of the Rimrock storage water. He points out that his project will use it in time. Wapato now has a water right entitling it to 250,000 acre feet. It has been getting but

100,000 acre feet. The extra 150,000 acre feet happens to be identical with the capacity of the Tieton dam. With the Kittitas highland project coming on ,Holt can't see that the valley is going to have any water surplus.

"The Wapato project is one of the few Indian irrigation units in the country that is self supporting," Holt points out. It has demonstrated its strength by thus far making payments of \$125,000 on its heavy water obligations without the aid of congress.

...Holt now has three dragline excavators at work on the Wapato project and a caterpillar and grader. He says the first lessee on the new Satus unit has 15 acres cleared. Two new houses have been built in that section. From 1,000 to 1,500 acres will be cleared for cultivation on the new unit this year...The Yakima Republic,
March 7, 1925.

Rimrock

Walter Ward, chief engineer on the Tieton dam at Rimrock will finish his job Saturday night and leave Sunday for Denver, headquarters of the western division of the reclamation service where he will report for further duty.

He has not learned where he will be assigned but has been informed that it will probably be on the construction job for which the government first appropriates money.

Ward still has a crew of 100 men engaged in cleaning up camp.

He expects to lay off at least two thirds of this number Friday or Saturday morning and the rest not later than Saturday night. So that beginning next Tuesday only the caretakers will remain at Rimrock where so much activity for the past few years has gone into construction of the \$5,000,000 reservoir-The Yakima Republic, May 6, 1925.

Tieton, \$3,194,823, acres farmed 250 24,545.

Sunnyside \$4,923,821, 78,130.

Reservation 6,325,000 88,000. totals \$14,443,644, 190,675.

Complete reports of the 1924 crop production of the Yakima districts irrigated lands show that the Tieton, Sunnyside and Reservation projects with 190,675 acres farmed produced crops worth \$14,443,644. The average per acre return was about \$71 with the maximum acreage return one of \$130 reported from the Tieton and the greatest return, one of \$6,325,000 coming from the Indian reservation.

Red cheeked apples on the Tieton from 7,160 acres returned to the growers \$2,286,819, an average of \$319 per acre. On the Reservation potatoes ruled as king with some of the growers getting as high as a carload of No. 1 tubers from each acre cultivated.

At present the largest acreage on the Tieton project is in alfalfa but there are 5,355 acres in young orchard and a tendency to replace the alfalfa by orchard as shown by the fact that in 1923 there was but 4,725 acres in young trees. ...The Yakima Republic, Feb. 18, 1925.

Reclamation

Sunnyside project

Crops produced on the Sunnyside unit of the Yakima reclamation project in 1924 were valued at \$4,923,821 by the board of survey which recently finished its work according to announcement today by J.L. Lytel, project manager. Farms cropped totalled 78,130 acres with the yield per acre averaging \$63.02.

Potatoes returned to the growers the most money the value of the crop being placed at \$1,350,622, a large increase over 1923. The crop was worth \$884,213 then. The spud acreage was 6,587 as compared with 6,210 in 1923.

The most profitable crop on the basis of per acre return however was hops, ~~\$2400~~ these returned \$432 to the acre. Small fruits were second with \$236 and rutabagas third with a per acre return of \$220. The potato return per acre was \$205.

Alfalfa and apple returns took big slumps, accounting largely for a reduction in the crop value in 1924. The apple crop was worth \$992,426 as against \$2,998,037 the previous year.

Apple acreage was 9,230 while in 1923 it was 10,011.

Number of head and total value of livestock on the project showed decreases generally although there were notable increases in the number of dairy cattle and sheep. The number of dairy livestock increased from 11,628 in 1923 to 12,335 while the increase in the number of sheep was from 5,798 to 9,615.

Total value of livestock was put at \$1,459,507 compared with \$1,710,795. The number of head of livestock was cut from 264,904 to 237,125.

Value of farm equipment was put at \$731,175 as compared with \$801,835 the previous year. The number of automobiles and their value dropped, 3,399 to 2,939, valued at \$1,188,151.

and \$929,638. The number of silos fell from 221 to 188.

Acres of young orchard last year was 2,041, an increase from 1,493 acres over the year.

The value of the 1923 crop on the Sunnyside project was \$7,766,406, the drop last year being \$2,842,585.

Irrigated farms on the project totaled 3,391 compared with 3,181 the year previous. The Yakima Republic, Feb. 14, 1925.

"eclamation

Rimrock dam

Construction of the huge earth fill dam at Rimrock has been accomplished at a cost to the government of \$400,000 under the original estimate of the reclamation service according to announcement today by F.T. Crowe of Denver, general superintendent of construction who spent Saturday and Sunday on an official inspection at Rimrock.

The total cost of the huge dam will be \$4,215,000, Crowe declared. The estimate and the amount allowed by the government for the job was \$4,615,000. Crowe was chief engineer at Rimrock through the critical stage of the work having been succeeded last June by Walter Ward, who is bringing the job to completion.

The final work on the dam is being accomplished in excellent fashion Crowe said. He believes Ward will be able to break camp and turn the reservoir over to J.L. Lytel, Yakima project manager about April 1. All the work is complete except placing the control valves and ~~control~~ valve house at the mouth of the tunnel. When that is done the equipment will be cleared away and temporary buildings removed.

Crowe was accompanied on his inspection trip by J.L. Savage of Denver, designing engineer of the reclamation service. Savage designed the Tieton spillway. He and Crowe found that ~~has~~ been installed in good shape.

Crowe and Savage are making a tour of all projects of the west and from here will go to Pendleton, Ore. where an earth dam is being put in--The Yakima Republic, February 9, 1925.

Reclamation

Rimrock

End of the construction work on the Hieton reclamation dam at Rimrock is so near at hand that Walter Ward, engineer in charge was able today to reduce his crew from 215 men to 150, a cut in the payroll of 65 employes.

There remains to be done four or five weeks of finishing work on the dam, Mr. Ward said today. If the weather continues as favorable as it has been in the past two weeks he will be able to turn the big job over to the government as done by the middle of March if not before. Excellent progress has been made since the middle of February.

Little success was attained in the recent attempt to dispose of the temporary buildings of the camp to highest bidders, Ward reported. Another sale will be held soon and all that time it is hoped to dispose of them.

The buildings must be torn down and removed. Cottages in the main camp will be permitted to remain so that persons who buy them may be able to use them as summer camps.

Many of the employes being relieved from duty at Rimrock are making application for jobs on the Kittitas high line and the American Falls project in Idaho when those units get under way. Ward says he does not know where he will be assigned when his present job ends. There is a probability that he will go to the Idaho project. The Yakima Daily Republic, February 1, 1925.