

Wenas.

Water litigation

Judge Davidson decided the Wenas water case last Monday. The decision is of vital interest to the farmers of the Wenas valley and bearing on the question of water rights, the judge's finds will be considered important in all irrigated countries.

The case was one of injunction in which David Longmire sought to enjoin all the other farmers of the Wenas valley against the use of waters of the Wenas creek for irrigating their lands.

Judge Davidson, after considering the evidence accumulated at the trial last June and noting the briefs filed by the numerous lawyers, finds as follows:

Up to noon of the 20th day of June each year David Longmire, the plaintiff and all other farmers in the Wenas valley are to use all the water needed by their farms for irrigating purposes. Commencing on the 20th day of June each year the plaintiff, David Longmire, will have the exclusive use of the waters of Wenas creek for the successive three and one half days; then those above him may have the use of the waters of the creek for three and one half days; then the plaintiff David Longmire will be entitled to the exclusive use of the waters of the creek for the four succeeding days; then those above him may have the creek for three successive days; then Longmire is to have the exclusive use of the water for five days and those above for two days and to continue thus to alternate during the dry season. All this time all parties on the creek are to be allowed to use water for stock and domestic purposes. Each party to pay its own cost.

The Wenas is a stream too small to irrigate all the lands along its course. Usually the supply is adequate until June 20 of each year. This condition of things made a dispute between the settlers inevitable. I

Another epoch in the history of the great Sunnyside canal was ushered in on Monday when Master in Chancery Wellington M. Clark of Walla Walla standing on the front steps of the court house in this city sold the great property to the Washington Irrigation company. The new ~~company that succeeded~~ corporation that becomes the successor of the Yakima Investment company is a composite organization made up of the several different interests that held claims for large amounts against the old company.

Chief among them was the California Safe Deposit company of San Francisco. The only bid was made on the property, the amount of which was \$335,000.-The Yakima Democrat, March 10, 1900.

Irrigation
Wenas

The Commercial club passed a resolution at its last meeting asking the delegation from this state at Washington to introduce a bill appropriating \$50,000 to establish a reservoir in the Wenas valley for irrigation purposes.

This would make water available for larger tracts of excellent lands inaccessible to the canals now in existence- The Yakima Republic, March 9, 1900.

Sunnyside

Manager Walter N. Granger of the Washington Irrigation company informs the Republic that on January 20, 1901, the price of the company's Sunnyside lands will be advanced from \$30 to \$35 per acre. Notice is given in advance so that persons contemplating purchases may have an opportunity to ~~avoid~~ avail themselves of present prices

"All the lands of the Sunnyside under the ditch were originally \$55 per acre," Said Mr. Granger Wednesday. "They were reduced to \$30 in order to start a movement toward settling them. That has been done and we are advancing the lands to something like their actual value. They are worth more than \$30. At that price they are the cheapest lands with water in the county-" The Yakima Republic, December 21, 1900.

Last Monday at 12 o'clock noon Wellington M. Clark, master in chancery for the United States District court sold the entire holdings of the Yakima Investment company under the hammer for \$335,000. The property which includes the well known Sunnyside canal system and 28,000 of land was purchased by J. Dalzell Brown of San Francisco in the interest of The Washington Irrigation company.

Mr. Brown's bid was accompanied by a deposit of \$10,000 which was increased to \$35,000 when the property was struck down.

The Washington Irrigation Company is composed of the capitalist creditors of the old ditch company and its financial strength is apparent when it is said that the parties in interest at the Denneys of Seattle, Ladd & Tilton of Portland, the California Safe Deposit & Trust Company of San Francisco and the Electric Corporation of Boston.

The price paid for the property is less than one-half the amount of bonds and receivers certificates outstanding, the indebtedness being \$720,000 in round numbers.

The gentlemen present at the sale and interested in engineering the deal were J. Dalzell Brown, vice president of the California Safe Deposit Company of San Francisco; Rolland H. Denny of Seattle; O.F. Paxton of the firm of Paxton, Beach & Simon of Portland, counsel for the trust company; B.S. Grosscup of the firm of Crowley & Grosscup of Tacoma, counsel for the Northern Pacific Railway company; E.F. Blaine, counsel for the Denney estate, Seattle; and R.G. Hudson of the firm of Hudson & Holt, counsel for the London and San Francisco Bank Tacoma.

As the property was knocked down to the highest bidder, Rutter, the photographer took a picture of the group in front of the postoffice courthouse. This will preserve pictorially the first act in the new history of a business enterprise the management

which will greatly aid in the development of the Yakima country and the state.

Mr. Brown said: "....It will be the policy of the new owners of the property to develop it and induce the settlement of the country as rapidly as possible. Every effort will be made to secure settlers upon the land and the owners will endeavor to manage the property as to benefit the settlers upon the lands and the citizens of Yakima..."

Grosscup said: "....The railroad company under its old management was deeply interested in this property, both as a stockholder and as the project which would tend in the future to build up the country along this line and add materially to the wealth and tonnage of the Yakima valley. The county of Yakima is one of the best on the line of the NP railroad. The consummation of the intimated purpose of the Sunyside scheme is one of the most important if not the most important project of its kind in the northern part of the United States."

"Southern California has been developed largely by irrigation enterprises and similar enterprises are now being carried on to completion in Arizona. The Northern Pacific would like to see the purchasers of the Yakima property accomplish results which will demonstrate what irrigation will do in the northern states of the Pacific coast. Its officers believe that the land of the Yakima valley is not only well adapted to farming but by means of irrigation but that this scheme when developed will convert a desert into one of the wealthiest sections of the United States. A prominent member of the company stated to me lately that he believed that there is more profit in the hardy fruits of the north than in the citrus fruits of the south and that an orchard consisting of select varieties of fruit properly cared for would be of greater value than an orange or orange grove in Southern California. The Yakima Republic, March 9, 1900."

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Irrigation growth :

Yakima Herald, August 26, 1903 and U.S. Census Report, 1902.

by 1903...at time state ~~was finding it necessary~~ government had entered the irrigation picture because of complexity of local and state laws and growth.

Three fourths of the irrigated irrigation of the state and nearly one half of the irrigated farms were in the Yakima Valley.

The Yakima River has its source in Keechelus Lake on the eastern slope of the Cascades in Kittitas County, flowing through Kittitas and Yakima Counties and joining the Columbia near Kiona, now in Benton county.

Since 1899 there had been important development in irrigation systems in the Yakima Valley. Two large canals were constructed (dd and older systems extended.

In 1902 the number of ~~1000000~~ farms ~~from Yakima~~ irrigated from Yakima river and from springs and artesian wells in the Yakima Valley was 2,505 and the area irrigated covered 121,705 acres. There were in operation 255 irrigation systems costing \$1,968,555 and the cost of irrigation was \$16.17 an acre. There were 618 miles of main ditches.

(Western Washington at that time had 94 irrigated farms, 1025 acres under irrigation, 16 irrigation systems costing \$11,245, 17 miles of ditches and the cost was \$10.97 an acre)

Irrigation

Moxee valley

While at North Yakima , through the courtesy of O.V. Carpenter, county assessor, a representative of the Union was taken over the Moxee valley and shown about that beautiful stretch of country which is destined to be one of the most productive in the state of Washington.

The headquarters of the Moxee Land company are located about four and a half miles east of North Yakima.

Charles Carpenter is the pioneer hop grower of the valley and he says that in his 19 years of experience the average yield per acre has been over one ton per acre and the net profit \$160. Probably the finest field in the Yakima country is owned by A.B. Weed who formerly lived at Walla Walla.

All this land (including Sunnyside) is irrigated and Yakima should be called the Valley of the Ditches.

The Hubbard & Fowler ditch is located on the north and east side of North Yakima and with the lateral ditches it irrigates 10,000 acres of land. This ditch is controlled by the Moxee Land company and they will soon commence work on another ditch which will irrigate 4,000 additional acres of high lands.

The water is to be taken from the Yakima river two miles below the city and the ditch will be fifteen miles in length. On the west side of the city is the Cowychee and Wide Hollow ditch. It is 15 miles long and irrigates 4,000 acre .

The water is taken from the Natcheez river.

The Schanno ditch commences at the Natcheez river , is eight miles in length and 4,000 acres are irrigated. On the west side are the Ahtanum, Shaw, Lesh & Stair and Ahtanum and Wide Hollow Ditches which irrigate 12,000 acre .

In addition to these are several smaller ditches which furnish

water for the high lands above the Natcheez river.

In the Selah valley on the north side of the Yakima river, is the Selah ditch, forty miles in length and the Glead ditch, 10 miles long, which cover 20,000 acres of good land. From the Tietan is another ditch which irrigates about 20,000 acres north of the Hubbard ditch.

The Sunnyside canal begins about two miles below the old town and runs in an easterly direction, paralleling the Yakima river and ends near Prosser. It is sixty miles in length, thirty feet wide at the bottom and sixty-two feet on the top. It carries six feet of water and covers 66,000 acres of fine fruit lands.

The water for the Leadbetter ditch is taken from the Yakima river at Prosser. The ditch follows the river for 20 miles when it is divided. One ditch is taken across the river by means of an inverted syphon and then covers the vast amount of land on the west side as far as the Columbia opposite Pasco.

The main ditch and branches furnish water for 150,000 acres. The Yakima Improvement company's ditch commences near Kiona, runs in an easterly direction covering about 10,000 acres. The Horn ditch begins 10 miles below Kiona and follows the south bank of the Yakima to the Columbia river.

East of the Moxee company's land, the Yakima Land Company has two large artesian wells which furnish water for a large number of acres of high lands. These two wells flow 1,000,000 gallons of water per day and the company has now a large force of men sinking two more.

Clark & McDonald have one well completed, the depth being 960 feet, flowing 1,000,000 of water a day (gallons) These gentlemen are also having two other wells sunk and intend to have a group of five more in that immediate section.

The first work done by the reclamation service in the Yakima valley was in 1902 when a reconnaissance was made. On account of the chaotic conditions of the water rights and the danger of litigation nothing further was done until April 1904.

When a movement was started for the settlement of existing water rights controversies it was deemed safe to begin active investigations. The work of 1904 consisted of hydrographic studies and compilation of all available data concerning the principal irrigation schemes proposed.

Before the reclamation service entered the Yakima valley all the low flow water of the Yakima river had been appropriated for irrigation and the settlement of existing water rights was based upon the full of this flow by existing canals and as all further development necessarily depended upon storage to increase the flow in the low season the state legislature in 1905 passed an act which enabled the reclamation service to withdraw for reclamation service all of the unappropriated water of the Yakima river and its tributaries. This system drains an area of about 5,300 square miles between the Cascade mountains and the Columbia river. The average precipitation over this area varies from less than five inches per annum in the arid portions to 100 inches in the higher mountain ranges.

In May, 1905, ~~surveys~~ surveys were begun and by the end of October preliminary surveys and estimates of cost of four projects were completed. Of the projects investigated it was decided that on account of the large amount of money required only the Tieton and Sunnyside projects could be taken up at that time.

In October, 1905, these projects were authorized and preparations were commenced for construction.

Large brush land, barren thousands of acres in the Sunnyside district, supported by a scant and shifting population in 1889 when Walter Granger came to the valley at the request of the Northern Pacific Railroad to investigate the possibility of irrigation on the lands northeast of Yakima, then but a cluster of shacks, he secured a camping outfit and saddle horse. (copy)

About the middle of June he crossed to the north bank of Yakima river at the Gap and continued his lonely reconnoissance as far as the present town of Sunnyside. From the crest of Snipes mountain, named after Ben Snipes, one of the first cattlemen in the valley, Granger swept the country with powerful glasses to determine as far as possible the favorable features to irrigation construction.

Toward evening he dug a small furrow and dumped the contents of his canteen into it to see if the soil had good water retaining quality. The experiment showed him that it would retain water well.

The next day Granger started the return trip to Yakima. When he arrived here he telegraphed Col. John Lanborn, land commissioner of the NP at St Paul, that he was well pleased and that if he would get an option on the lands held by the Northern Pacific, he would build a canal.

Col. Lanborn's return wire to Granger stated that an option would be sent. The option on the 80,000 acres of land was for a flat rate of \$1.25 an acre. Since that time much of the land has sold in excess of \$1,000. The Northern Pacific at the time owned the alternate odd numbered sections of land.

(Odd Sections)

Granger was "sold" on the idea of irrigating the immense tract. From his reconnoissance he was satisfied of the richness of the land and that he could put the water on it. He had seen fruit that

excelled the fruit he had seen elsewhere, with potatoes and alfalfa on the land which a few men irrigated by means of farmers' ditches close to the river.

He visioned the whole area of the valley irrigated and settled. When he did the initial work on the Sunnyside canal he understood that he was beginning his life work.

Granger had gained his irrigation experience in Montana where he had built three large irrigation projects, now known as the Tieton canal in the Gallatin valley near Bozeman, the Strawberry valley project between Helena and Great Falls, and the Big Bend reservoir system above Great Falls.

It was through the widespread knowledge of the success of these projects that the Northern Pacific asked him to come to Yakima to investigate irrigation. Previous to becoming interested in irrigation Granger had been successful in a wholesale grocery business in Montana and had acquired a considerable fortune which he was to afterward spend with one free gesture in an effort to continue the work toward completion of the Sunnyside canal.

He wired to his engineering party of 12 men who were awaiting word from him at Helena to come at once. The Northern Pacific assisted him in every way. It furnished him books of passes that enabled him to bring laborers and their families into the country from the Middlewestern states. For his townsites Granger had chosen the present locations of Zillah and Sunnyside.

A few cabins were built at Zillah and it became the first town in the lower valley.

He built the reclamation house which still stands at headquarters for canal work in that vicinity.

Sunnyside was built three years later. His crew located the intake about twenty miles above North Yakima on the Yakima river

near a place called Roza.

The company was named the Yakima Irrigation company.

At the present time A. T. Strathorn soil expert of the U.S. bureau of soils is engaged in soil classification in the country investigated by Granger at Roza, the possibilities of future irrigation in mind.

With the work under way the Northern Pacific joined Granger and the name of the company was changed to the Northern Pacific and Yakima Irrigation company.

Granger held one third of the stock in it and the Northern Pacific two-thirds.

In telling the story of early irrigation Granger says that the Northern Pacific did a great work in assisting on the Sunnyside canal. At that time money was scarce and hard to get. All work was done by manual labor and teams.

The beginning of the greater reservoir system came in 1890 when Granger foresaw that water would become a scarcity. Knowing of the lakes at the head of the Naches and Yakima rivers he made the filings on them in 1891 for reservoir purposes. After filing the lakes he began the construction of rock and timber dams at the outlets.

The present dams are located on the sites of his first dams, Dumping, Kittitas, Cle Elum and Kaches were the first lakes Granger filed on. With the filing he changed the name of the company to the Yakima, Northern Pacific and Kittitas Irrigation company.

Under Granger's direction measuring posts were planted at intervals in the Yakima river. Written reports on the daily reports on the flow of the stream were received at his office. He cooperated with H. F. Newell, at that time with the U.S. geological survey and was able to give Newell valuable data. Afterwards Granger's friend Newell became the first director of the United States reclamation service.

It was through information obtained at this period and work done by Granger and Newell that the government came to take over the Sunnyside project.

Working on the different sections of the canal there were 3500 men and 800 teams. Granger was the guiding genius of it all. Problems and they were frequent, were met and solved by him.

In 1893 the whole burden of the project fell upon Granger. The Northern Pacific was in the hands of the receivers and he was given the stock in the company to handle as best he could.

Expenses were heavy and a huge payroll was being carried. He used over \$300,000 of his own money in carrying on the work he had come to regard as his duty. With his money running low he appealed to the banks in the valley country. The banks agreed to take his time check at a slight discount and redeem them as land was sold. He would finish a section of the canal and then sell the land as quickly as possible to repay the banks. Merchants also helped him.

Granger was making the grade in the construction when unforeseen manipulations forced the company into bankruptcy.

Paul Schulze, president, committed suicide. Granger became only the more determined to see the project through.

Several years later a reorganization took place and the company became the Washington Irrigation Company under which name it operated until the government took it over.

Granger was employed to take charge of the work. After the government took over the project he continued in charge of building operations until 1920 when he was forced to leave work by a paralytic stroke from which he is slowly recovering. Although 71 years old he is now able to work in the yard about his home at 704 South Fourth street.

Granger in telling of the troubles and problems met with in the early years of the Sunnyside canal construction work says:

"Through it all I couldn't bear to lose my dream of the canal's completion."

He considers his dream now an actuality and points out the 115 mile canal with its 1,000 miles of branch canals and laterals.

Last fall he was elected to honorary lifemembership in the Washington Irrigation Institute.

Many of the systems founded by Grager in the early days of the canal are still in use.

From his early plant ~~as~~ developed in his initial irrigation survey in 1889 has grown the present Sunnyside canal irrigating 115,000 and providing hundreds of homes for fine American citizens..
The Yakima Republic, April 30, 1926.

Irrigation

Walter Granger

Walter Granger, the father of the valley reclamation projects is to be voted a life membership in the Washington Irrigation Institute according to plans formulated today by a number of Granger's ex-students who learned the practical and theoretical end of the irrigation business under him years ago.

Granger was manager of the Sunnyside project from 1891 to 1910 and before that managed a project in Montana. He first took charge of the Sunnyside project when it was known as the Northern Pacific, Yakima & Kittitas unit.

Dreams of present Kittitas highline were even then formulating. men now high in irrigation circles who got their start under Granger include Frank Fyfe, president of the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation district who broke in as a ditch rider; R.K. Tiffany, now state hydraulic engineer, started as one of the engineers on the Sunnyside project; W.C. Muldrow, manager of the Kennewick project, who began work as a hydrographer on the project--The Yakima Herald, Feb. 11, 1926.

Irrigation

Yakima is the original home of the Washington Irrigation Institute holding its 13th annual meeting here today and is also the state's most prosperously productive irrigation project. A few of the figures printed for the benefit of the delegates are:

Total area irrigated, 350,000 acres.

Sunnyside project area , 95,000 acres.

Tieton project area, 27,000 acres.

Sunnyside 1925 crop value \$8,978,767.

Tieton 1925 crop value \$3,025,000.

Average return per acre \$140.

Total for rest of valley \$38,000,000.

Cost of Sunnyside project \$3,535,640.

Cost of Tieton project \$3,434,334.

Number of farms, Sunnyside project 3,326. Number of farms on Tieton 1,320--Yakima Republic, February 10, 1926.

Investigation: U NC

Reclamation-Crop values

— Congdon ditch values

The 118,630 acres in the Yakima valley furnished part time water requirements by the government reclamation service produced crop valued at \$14,215,470 according to the report made public by the district superintendent of reclamation, J.L. Lytel.

The 4,300 acres of land under the Congdon ditch company showed an average crop value of \$302 an acre, harvesting in 1925 a fruit crop valued at \$1,297,500 according to the government report.

The Naches-Selah irrigation district of 20,200 acres produced crops valued at \$2,212,400 with an average per acre of \$217.

Other sections reported under this head are: M_oxee-Selah with an average per acre of \$175; Union-Gap district, \$175; Wapato project \$111; Cascade Irrigation district of Kittitas county \$83; Westside district of Kittitas county \$79--The Yakima Republic, January 30, 1926.

Average crop values per acre on the Sunnyside project land reach \$114 according to the report made public today from the office of District Supervisor J.L. Lytel.

This is an average of \$16 per acre less than the Tieton returns show, but the project is considerably larger. Total returns for the 1925 season are \$8,978,767 for practically double the value of the 1924 crops.

The cropped area of the district was 78,474 acres with over 32,000 acres devoted to the growing of alfalfa hay and only 8,423 acres of bearing apple orchard with 2,434 acres of young orchard being developed.

The highest return per acre was from hops, a total of \$462 ~~when~~ the potato returns per acre are \$434 with 7,475 acres planted. Squash growing proved remunerative to Sunnyside ranchers with 890 planted acres bringing an average return of \$45 per acre while 606 acres of rutabagas averaged a return of \$143 per acre--The Yakima Republic, January 13, 1926.

Tieton Water Users

Board members of the Tieton Water Users association this morning at their regular monthly meeting in the federal building went on record with a resolution favoring the 40 year payment plan for government construction charges as opposed to the 5 per cent crop return policy as provided in the law passed December 5, 1924.

United States Senator Wesley L. Jones is to be instructed to convey the sentiments of the association on this proposed policy to Congressman L.G. Crampton who will advocate its adoption at the next session of congress.

Tieton members according to H.M. Gilbert, president, favor this 40 year payment policy since it is more just to the property holders and practicable in its application.

It would do away with the discontent and friction among holders that would arise when the appraisal board had completed the necessary adjustment rates, Gilbert said. The Yakima Republic, Nov. 7, 1925.