

Reservation

Work was commenced Monday on the second reservation ditch, the intake of which will be at a point five miles west of the headgates of the main canal.

It will be eight miles long, two and one-half feet deep, five feet on the bottom and will irrigate about 12,000 acres.

These ditches, under the able management of Agent Erwin, will reclaim more land and at less cost per acre than any other irrigation work in the state--Yakima Herald, Sept. 17, 1896.

Irrigation - General

Reservation ditch

W.H.Redman-I have just finished turning in the water in the Erwin ditch and laterals on the reservation. There are 30 miles of ditches covering about 25,000 acres of land. There will be about ten miles more when the Indians get through excavating--Yakima Herald, April 13, 1899.

Irrigation Ditch

Messrs. J. Freeman and John Polly of Yakima have formed a joint stock company with a capital of \$10,000 for the purpose of digging a ditch for irrigating... The ditch is to be taken out of the Yakima river on the east side 3 miles below Yakima City and carried upon the "second bench" and will be made 12 feet wide and 3 feet deep, the capacity being about 6,000 inches... The land when irrigated produces from 80 to 100 bushels of oats to the acre. But little of it has been taken up.

-- Tacoma Herald, Aug. 9, 1878

A contract has been let to dig water ditches along the outer edge of the side walks throughout the town.

The water will be taken out of the Natches river at the north half of the southeast quarter of section 12 and carried in a canal that is estimated to cost \$2,500 through Mrs. Vaughn's place across the line of section thirteen about a quarter of a mile west of the northeast corner, thence on to the north limits of the town which it will follow in a westerly direction to the upper end of Front street, just east of the railroad right of way.

Eight thousand cubic yards of earth will be removed in constructing the canal to the last named point.

One large main ditch will carry the water through the whole length of Front street southward with a branch ditch down E street, eastward from which streams will flow on both sides of all the streets running north and south and four streams through Natches avenue--two at a proper distance apart through the middle and one on each side by the sidewalks.

A contract has been let to plant 1,600 shade trees between sidewalks and the water ditches. Thus with flowing streams of cool, clear mountain water, green shady health giving trees and other sanitary regulations mentioned elsewhere this will be the model town of Washington Territory, such at least the officers of the railroad company intend to make it. It already somewhat resembles the topographically beautiful city of Salt Lake in the slope of townsite, width of streets and surrounding landscape of mountains and valley and will more so when the streets like those of Salt Lake city are lined with green trees and streams of clear flowing water under their shady branches--Washington Farmer, March 14, 1885.

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The water will be taken out of the Naches river at the north half of the southeast quarter of section 12 and carried in a canal that is estimated to cost \$2,500 through Mrs. Vaughn's place across the line of section thirty-four about a quarter of a mile west of the northeast corner, thence on to the north limits of the town which it will follow in a westerly direction to the upper end of Front street, just east of the railroad right of way.

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North Yakima
historical

The water ditches are being filled with water.

Clearing the way for the company ditch has commenced.

The time has changed between here and Kennewick and the trains do not arrive until 5 o'clock.

E.S. Yeates' booth and shoe manufactory, formerly of Yakima City is turning out brand new boots and shoes on Yakima avenue.

People owning hogs and cattle in the town limits are requested to keep them from running at large as they destroy the water ditches and shade trees being put in along the streets.

Mrs. Wilson, opposite the depot on the west side of the railroad does family or hotel washing for 50 cents per dozen, washing first class white shirts 12 1-2 cents.

The Bartholet Hotel of Yakima City was put on rollers and started towards North Yakima Thursday morning of this week. Mr. Patch who moved the Guillard Hotel from the old town to the new has the contract to move the Bartholet hotel.

North Yakima contains 254 blocks well laid out with wide streets and abundant yard accommodations. All the streets running parallel with the railroad are 100 feet wide except two which are 60 feet wide for a short distance, then 80 feet the remainder of their length and Natches avenue which is 140 feet wide. All other streets are 80 feet wide except Yakima avenue which is 100 feet wide and the ~~Doddard~~ ~~25 x 120~~ alleys which are 100 feet wide. The blocks are 140 x 100 to 400 x 400 and the lots 25 x 130, 25 x 140, 50 x 140, 50 x 140 and 50 x 180.

The Washington Farmer, March 14, 1885.

Moxee Ditch

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Yakima Herald February 2, 1889.

Irrigation - General
Irrigation

Hubbard ditch

The tourist on sailing into the magnificent harbor of Seattle and from the deck of one of our stately floating palaces viewing the growing beautiful emporium with its warehouses, store and elegant residences rising up, terrace like from the placid waters of the Sound, all enshadowed with snowy peaks of the Coast range, can have but little idea from his surroundings of the character of the country and its climate lying in eastern Washin ton beyond the glistening mountains.

Taking the cars at Seatt e, a few hours' ride through the wonde ful Stampede tunnel, transposes one into a district in whh the condiiions of xliamate, soil and temperature are changed from the physical features of Seattle and those of different zone.

Passing down onthe line of the great NPRR continental route throughthe glades and valleys of Kittitas following the winding course of the Yakima river where it has cut its way through the southern spur of th Wenatchee moun the traveler is conveyed into the great plain of the Yakima country.

Here on every side are seen instead of hills covered with evergreen forests, broad rich alluvial plains are on either hand. Instead of the rich moist climate of the sound there is warmth and acidity in the atmosphere, whic rwminsa onw od rhw noerhwen Mexico or San Joaquin plains of California; and this is Yakima country of Washington, extending 125 miles from the coast range to the mighty Columbia and 85 miles from the Wenatchee on the north to the Klickitat mountains on the south, a series of immense, prolific prairies, a place where the sun shines nine-tenths of the year, a rainfall of eight inches annually and a temperature so modified by the southwest trades coursing canyon of the Columbia as to remind one of more southern latitudes.

For years by the stockmen and settlers these great planes were considered suitable only for cattle ranges and the home of the wild horse. Traversed diagonally by the Yakima river, a stream that with its tributaries, the ~~Noched~~ Natcheez, Ahtanu,n, Wenas, Topnish and other branches affords an inexhaustible unceasing water power and supply for all

ossible ir~~rigat~~able purposes, ~~and~~ science has noted the great possibilities of this section.

Careful thermometrical statistics prove the climate to be about the same as northern California. Intelligent estimates show that there is plenty to spare of nature's fructifyer , water, in the rivers. Observation demonstrates the soil to be the best, unexcelled anywhere. Necessity demands these great advantages be utilized to supply food to the rapidly increasing tens of thousands of the Sound cities.

The educated Ameican farmer has always proven himes~~elf~~ equal to any emer~~gency~~ and able to supply the demand..Today, therefore, wher four years ago were uncultivated p~~rairies~~ prairies, the home of great herds of unrestrained wild cattle and vicious bands of cayuse ponies who knew no halter, now stands the beautiful city of North Yakima, the queen of Eastern Washington and on every side, acre after acre of broad, cultivated domains, rich in fruit, hops, grain and vegetables ; all brought about in the short space of time by the intelligent use of the vivifying waters of the rivers.

A short account of some of the principal irrigation schemes in Yakima may be of interest, which we attempt giving them not chronologically but topographicall.

The city of North Yakima is situated at the confluence of the Natcheez and Yakima rivers. The waters of the Natcheez are supplied from the eternal glaciers of Mount Rainier. There are several minor irrigation ditches taken out of this stream. The only extensive one is the canal of the Selah Valley Ditch Company, of which B.F. Young of Pierce county is the able superin endent. This company, coing up the Nat heez some 30 miles, posted their notices of a propriat~~ion~~ and took out a canal 24 feet on the bottom carrying three feet and a half of water in depth. Exc~~avating~~ around the foothills on the north of the Natcheez valley they have conducted their canal ove into Selah valley just north of the City of North Yakima. This valley contains about 20,000 acres of beautiful land which now under the impetus afforded by the Selah Valley Ditch

company is being rapidly settled and brought under the dominion of the plow and harrow. This same company, branching off with a side cut where their main line crosses the divide between the Natcheez and the Selah by means of flumes and conduits are conveying a portion of this pure fresh icy cold water to the top of the high bluff just north of the city of North Yakima -- here is being constructed a reservoir forty feet in depth and with a surface of five acres in the head of a ravine. From this point the company propose conducting the water down the bluff across the Natcheez in iron pipes to supply their mains in the city, thus affording the inhabitants of that favored place a sufficiency of pure fresh water under a 420 foot pressure.

Just across the Yakima river from the city are the head gates of the Moxee company's ditch. This company of which Gardiner G. Hubbard of Washington D.C. and William Ker, Esq. of Moxee, ~~the president~~ are the principal owners, under supervision of Mr. Ker, the president, have carried the science of irrigation to a higher degree of perfection than any other canal company in the country.

The company's main ditch is 18 feet to the bottom and calculated to carry a depth of three feet of water, winds around the foothills of the beautiful Moxee valley and supplies all those thousands of broad acres with a sufficiency of irrigation and domestic and stock water. The Moxee company now uses a portion of the supply on their 2,000 acres of their own land. Here may be seen the broad acres of alfalfa from which four crops a year are cut, large fields of grain, hop yards with ~~0000~~ their long straight poles embowered by the clinging vines standing up like soldiers on dress parade, row after row of fruit trees, stretches of vineyard and several fields of tobacco of which Mr. Ker, highly encouraged by the prices, intends to make a speciality.

Mr. Ker after that careful test experiment which characterizes all of his work, has adopted the flowage system of irrigation, has his fields laid off checks and by this means is able to get the water on and off the

land more quickly and without the waste and work consequent upon the use of the more common and extravagant trickling system. On the west and around ~~around~~ North Yakima the Union, Hubbard, Schanno, city and different Ahtanum ditches, all small affairs, supply farmers and city with an abundance of water for all agricultural purposes. The trickling system is the one in vogue, that is, the husbandman from the main ditch through his field, at every 12 or 14 feet, runs off a light furrow in which a thread of water trickles down through his crop. Experiment has shown these little rivulets moisten the land about six feet on either side. When we reflect on the loss from evaporation, the constant vigilance needed to keep these little streams open, it is certain that ere long our farmers will adopt the economical and surer check method of the Moxee company.

It is predicted that before long these little ditches about the city of North Yakima will be brought out and consolidated and the 110,000 acres of arable land about the city brought under one large canal, an end to be hoped for and consummation which will be richly repay the investment. Just opposite the site of old Yakima is the initial point of the to be canal of the Sunnyside Ditch company. This company proposes next spring taking out the waters of the Yakima at this point and conducting it in a canal to the rich plains immediately back of Prosser. If done, 80,000 acres of good farming country will be thrown open. The Sears brothers of Tacoma and some St Paul capitalists are backing this scheme. Thus far nothing has been done other than the preliminary surveys, which demonstrated the feasibility. Still on down the Yakima we come to the KONNOWOCK canal, which affords the settlers along its line a chance to show what this country will do under the influence of irrigation as field after field of alfalfa and orchard after orchard attest, a small local ditch, which must give place to the magnificent canal of the Sunnyside Company, which we hope, next year, not to be on paper only.

only.

Just above Kiona, still lower down the Yakima, the Yakima Improvement ~~Co~~ and Irrigation Company are going right ahead constructing a canal for irrigation and commercial purposes. ~~This~~ This canal is intended to cover some 194,000 acres of the company's own lands and twice as much more open to the pre-emption and homesteader. The location surveys have been made and the company are going right on with construction. The lands, like all others in Yakima, are fine rich soils and from their ~~peculiarly~~ peculiarly favorable situation especially adapted for fruit raising, which we understand the company propose to make a speciality. This canal is to be constructed of sufficient size and depth, six feet in depth, for canal boats to transfer freight from the shipping point at Kiona on the NPR R and when completed, which will be in the next 18 months, will be a large addition to the constantly increasing resources of Yakima county.

This crude account of irrigation in Yakima induces the reflection of the need of water legislation. Each ditch and canal company appears to have its own peculiar method of appropriation and measurement of water. Some sell water by the square and some by the cubic inch; some under pressure, others without; some still stick to the miner's inch while others deliver by gallon, a tangled mass of incongruities which must some day be a rich field for attorneys. It is ~~is~~ to be hoped that with coming statehood one of the first things to be decided and established will be a definite legal measure of water for irritable purposes. These water rights are very valuable. At present each company or person's appears to hold by a sort of prescriptive use. Our statute books have no concern about the rights of a private appropriator. It is an end to be earnestly desired by the residents of eastern Washington that, although the new constitution so soon to be formulated may declare "the riparian" doctrine to obtain in western Washington, the divide of the coast range eastward to the state line of the new commonwealth

the waters flowing in the rivers and streams of this section should be declared to be the property of the state and its citizens, under reasonable regulations allowed to appropriate the same for particular uses, of which irrigation is the most important and beneficial and then be protected in that appropriation--Seattle Post Intelligencer.

Irrigation

Selah Ditch

The annual meeting of the Selah Valley Ditch co. was held Monday , February 3. J.A. Stone was reelected president of the company and O.A. Fechter was elected secretary and treasurer. It was decided to resume operation on the ditch as soon as the weather permitted so as to supply the land with water in time to put in a crop this year.

The Selah Valley Ditch company have ample water power which is offered free to any one establishing a factory along the line of their canal--Yakima Herald, February 6. 1899.

Fruit growing
Irrigation Projects

M.D. Egbert in the Oregonian. February, 1889.

Across the Columbia river, reaching southward from the Yakima to the Columbia where it flows westward to the sea, is a strip of comparatively level bottom land, probably twenty miles long to five miles wide, that now, because of the lack of water, is comparatively valueless. The soil of this fine nature, generally black in color and covered by sage brush. Wherever water has been obtained and used upon growing vegetation, the yield has been astonishing. Whenever a vine or fruit tree has been planted and water applied, the growth has been miraculous.

With the knowledge of the latent fertility of this vast body of land possessing them, the people not only of the immediate region named but of the country all about, have long debated the project of supplying that region with water sufficient for irrigation purpose for the entire tract. Experience in fruit raising in the vicinity of Pasco, where the soil possesses identical features with that across the river, demonstrates beyond a doubt that fruit will thrive.

The altitude is but 355 feet above sea level while that of Walla Walla is 960 feet. The agitation of the water supply for this well nigh arid region gives promise of definite results, for it has been announced and it is believed authoritative that a strong company has been organized to take water from the Yakima somewhere near Prosser falls and to convey the same to the land which will make the rather inhospitable tract blossom like a rose.

It is said by those who know life work has been fitted to know, that the region named is not only from the character of the soil but from its altitude particularly adapted to the successful growth of fruit and vegetables. And it is mainly to attainment of that desirable end that the recent move to establish an irrigation ditch so great proportions has been made. It is with the same idea in view that the very manly entries of desert land have so lately and seemingly so anxiously been made at the land office in (this city Yakima).

The Northern Pacific Railroad company have for a long time had in contemplation the extension of one large ditch down the north side of the

Yakima through the famous Sunnyside region and Mr. Paul Schulze told the writer a little more than a year ago that the opening of that fine section high cultivation was not only in contemplation but was almost an assured fact. It may be, therefore, that the present move on the part of the New York company is through the direct influence of this ambitious and perserving officer. At any rate if the schedule is carried through, a vast breadth of hitherto comparatively valueless country will add its share to the marvelous productions of which Washington territory has already shown itself capable as well as peopling a section now almost devoid of inhabitants.

Fruit culture is an industry that can hardly be overdone in the great Northwest or anywhere. When it is remembered that in Eastern Washington, north of Franklin and Yakima countries, fruits cannot be successfully grown, and that a vast country lies north and east of these counties, that must forever be supplied with fruits. The population too, will ever be on the increase and railroad facilities will be commensurate with the growth and demands of the country. The northern portion of our territory will always be given up to mining, lumbering, stock raising and other agricultural pursuits. It will therefore be readily seen that there will ever be an enormous demand for fruits, and this the locality heretofore spoken of is an admirable position to supply. Concerning the productiveness of this section and its peculiar adaptation of fruit raising there can scarcely be any question, basing this conclusion on the sure promises of successful fruit culture in the regions immediately adjacent.

Arnold ?

Irrigation

Selah Ditch

February, 1989

J.A. Stone and B.A. Young^d of the Selah ditch co. returned to the sound Wednesday. B.F. Young will remain here to attend to the driving of 300,000 ~~feet~~ logs down the Tietan to Yeates' mill as soon as the water in the river is sufficiently high. The meeting of the stockholders of the ditch company Monday resulted in the selection of the following officers: President J.A. Stone; vice president, Byron A. Young; secretary B.F. Young; trustee O.W. Johnson, J.A. Stone and B.A. Young. An assessment of \$40,000 was levied and instruction given to begin the season's work on the 1st of March.

Riparian Rights
Ahtanum

The brist waking up has lately occurred among the farmers having riparian rights to the waters of the Ahtanum creek in this famous valley. They were struck very forcibly with the belief that unless they took decided measures for the protection of their waters from the appropriators on the dry benches they would be left like the fish without enough water to swim in. The farms on the Ahtanum were among the first filed upon in this country, and the old settlers have been generous and easy going, while the new settlers have taken out enough canals to drain the creek, and it did so last summer, leaving the old farms with not enough water for the stock. Forty-five farmers, representing twenty thousand acres of land, have organized themselves into the Ahtanum Riparian Rights association, with duly elected officers and are determined to prevent the waters of the Ahtanum from climbing the benches and meandering off through the tall sagebrush never to return again. These bench lands are fine sandy loam with heavy growth of sage brush and with water are among the most productive lands on the earth. The owners of farms on the dry benches are reasoning with themselves and arriving at the conclusion that it is not so wise to undertake to make a number of suits from only enough jeans for one, especially when the jeans belong to others, and now have a project on foot to draw their water by canals from the Tietan or Natchez, whose rolling waters go to swell the Columbia. Success and long life to their glorious undertaking.

C.C.W. in The Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, March 8, 1889.

Sunnyside

The Sunnyside Capital Site--Dozens of laborers are busily engaged in clearing the brush from Howard H. Lewis' new acquisition of 270 acres, which has been christened "Sunnyside." Mr. Lewis has made arrangements to transform this vast tract into a garden of beauty. One hundred and fifty acres will be platted in lots and the balance in five acre garden tracts. Streets will be laid out, irrigating ditches dug and a large number of shade trees planted, in fact, Mr. Lewis will do everything to make this new suburb of Yakima a most desirable residence section. Four blocks will be reserved as a capital site and will be donated to the new state for that purpose and land is also to be laid out and beautified for a public park--Yakima Herald, March 28, 1889.

Natchez Canal

The Natchez Canal Co. of Yakima has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$4,900 . Trustees are L.L. Thorn, John Nelson and Emanuel Cato. Its objects are to construct and operate ditches and canals for the purpose of irrigating the Natchez Valley in this county. Yakima Herald, March 28, 1880, W.T.