

## Reclamation

Reclamation development in the United States has reached a milestone of great importance with the formulation of the federal fact finding commission's recommendations made public last night, Yakima's reclamation authorities feel. Immediate relief on the Yakima and 27 other Western projects is held necessary and present recommendations do not provide for such relief. Further reclamation development will be much more successful under the proposed plan and the existing projects will be able to operate to greater advantage under the changes outlined but immediate relief must come first, local men insist.

A decided disposition on the part of the commission to aid the water users is clearly shown.

Abolishment of the 20 year repayment plan and substituting the land's productive power as a basis on annual payments is criticized. The plan provides for a payment rate of 5 per cent over a gross production period of 10 years. The average construction charge on the Tieton is ~~\$50,000 per acre~~ add \$5.50 per acre. Under the five per cent gross plan the rate would be much higher and would prove an additional burden rather than a relief.

Average gross production per acre on the Tieton and Sunnyside Units of the Yakima projects is not known. It is high as shown by the following figures taken from the official project reports:

Tieton gross production per acre 1922, apples \$221.60; small fruit \$200; pears \$139.35.

Tieton, 1921--Apples \$287.70; small fruit \$231.85; pears \$270.20

Sunnyside--1922 hops \$220.55; small fruit ~~\$900 per acre~~

\$300; Apples \$149.85; pears \$156.26; prunes \$198.43.

Sunnyside--1921--Hops \$750; small fruits \$325; apples \$309; pears \$215; prunes \$274.

Sunnyside 1914--\$apple \$100; soft fruit \$107; pears \$169; prunes \$434.

At present the r payment is \$5 an acre deemed too great a burden but according to th proposed plan would be more.

Recommendations that the projects be turned over immediately to the waterusers for their operation are not popular here. It is claimed that the financing of such a step would be difficult and that the waterusers would certainly be in danger of suits. Under the present plan the government is able to take the responsibility and on account of its strength the average individual will not bring suit so quickly as against a small concern, it is stated. April 11, 1924--The Yakima Daily Republic.



## Indian claims

L.M. Holt, superintendent of the Indian irrigation service is on the reservation gathering data relative to damages sustained by construction of reservation irrigation canals.

Holt, Major Evan Estep, superintendent of the Toppenish agency and William Charley, Yakima Indian, are members of the committee gathering the data. Twenty-three Indian owners claimed damages. The work of securing the information is slow and will probably take at least a month. The finding of the committee will be submitted to the secretary of the interior for final consideration.

Abraham Lincoln, an aged Indian, is acting as interpreter. The claims arise out of alleged damage to old irrigation ditches taken out of Toppenish and Smcoe creeks. Construction of the main system of canals and drains cut through some of the old ditches, destroying their usefulness. The Hoptowit ditch, a fording water to some 390 acres is the largest ditch affected. Although the Indians have been demanding the adjustment for some time it is thought that the final government decision will not grant the Indians any relief. It cannot be claimed by the Indians have been injured when the government has given them better service than previously enjoyed, it is said by officials here.. The Yakima Republic, April 3, 1924.

## Wapato Project

Water users on the Wapato, Satus and Ahtanum units of the United States Indian Reclamation service paid in a total of \$52,084.64 during March as compared to \$12,637 for the same period last year according to the monthly report given out by the office of L.M. Holt, superintendent today.

Officials say the decided increase in payments at this time is due to the early season. Water was turned in the project ditches at least two weeks earlier and much of it is being used.

Of the total payment \$13,913.46 represents water rights charges on the Wapato unit. Wapato maintenance totals \$32,035 ; Satus maintenance \$3,071 and Ahtanum maintenance \$2,531.50. Miscellaneous collections amount to \$532.85.--The Yakima Republic, March 31, 1924.



## Ahtanum case

Ahtanum water right litigation proceedings , going on before Marvin Chase, state hydraulic engineer, in the federal building since January 3, will close late today or early Tuesday morning. Over 300 witnesses were summoned, these representing practically every present land holder in the Ahtanum and many early settlers.

Chase estimates the final cost will be less than the average state cost for water litigation matters, 18 cents an acre. The total number of claims handled is 230.

Following the hearing Chase will assemble his data and after a few months of work will turn over his findings to the superior court of Yakima county. The county court will study the findings and will make a decision either confirming or modifying the decision of the state engineer.

Waterusers have the right to appeal to the state supreme court. Several cases concerning school land will be appealed to the state court, it is understood.

This morning's testimony consisted mainly of the history of Soda Springs at one time the oasis for the entire Yakima valley and still one of the many popular resorts of the section.

W.T. Dixon , the man who discovered the Soda Springs in 1882 told of the early days at the resort . Dixon's brother, Charles E. Dixon, was the first owner of the park land.

"My brother built most of the buildings on the site. A hotel, dance platform, spring, store house and stables were all erected by my brother. There were many private cabins owned by Alex Miller and other valley folk," Dixon said

\*Richard Strobach, who took over the land in 1888 also took the stand today. Strobach said he made improvements upon the bath house and other park buildings. He claimed about 10 acres of the tract was now under irrigation. James Biggam is present owner of Soda Springs.

Tales of early social life on Ahtanum creek some 60 years ago were given by five women, wives of deceased pioneer trail blazers in testimony offered in the water rights litigation hearing going on in the federal building before Marvin Chas, state hydraulic engineers.

At that time the red man and his squaw dominated with the scattering white families in the minority. While the two races intermingled and squaw men were common, a wrong doer was in danger of a neck-tie party the women related.

Mrs. Mary E. Simpson, past her 60th birthday and probably the oldest pioneer woman on the creek, spent considerable time on the witness stand Friday.

Mrs. Simpson and her husband, now dead, took up a homestead near what is now Wiley City in 1871. Mrs. Simpson is still living there. Four other pioneer widows to testify and their dates of settlement are: Felecia E. Stanton, 1868; Mary A. Splawn, 1867; Rosella Heaton, 1877 and Sarah Parton 1866.

Mrs. Parton tells of walking to Yakima from The Dalles, a distance of some 250 (Copy) miles.

"I was but a girl then and as the covered wagon in which father and mother had our few belongings was well crowded, there was little room for me so I walked. The wagon was drawn by oxen. I had no trouble in keeping up," Mrs. Parton replied when asked if she remembered her coming to the valley.

Mrs. Josephine Parker and Mrs. Alice Angela, both girls at the time of the Ahtanum settlement, have also testified in the hearing. Mrs. Parker is a daughter of Joe Bowser, who came to the creek in 1865. Mrs. Parker was given allotment of land where Toppenish now stands. She also held an allotment of 80 acres near Toppenish for each of her children.

While many of the women who have come to Yakima to testify are old they all have decidedly rugged appearances.



"When we have sufficient information relating to all sections and the most practicable projects awaiting execution, we will be placed in a position to make a decisive move. Many parties are now out making investigations and collecting data to be used by the bureau.

What is your opinion of the new irrigation law?

"As it now stands it is the most important act which has been passed by congress in many years. The far-sighted policy which led to its passage has made it a marvel in legislation and an epoch of development in this western country. There are schemes and projects which are too large and adventurous for private capital to undertake but our government with its money and prestige is in a position to successfully operate the most difficult of the undertakings and from the fact that the federal authorities are backing the schemes will prove a drawing card to the settlers. This whole western country needs irrigation, needs reservoirs and high line canals. The water which in the spring runs off and goes to waste should be dammed up in storage reservoirs and utilized later in the summer. It is our intention to look into propositions of this kind and in all feasible instances put them through."

How long have you been engaged in this work of this kind? Mr. Newell.

"Personally I have been engaged in work pertaining to irrigation since 1888. I have prepared many reports and carried on investigations in all parts of the United States. I think it very probable that in time the bureau will enlarge and become one of the departments of the government.

"In the state of Washington perhaps the most important project

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In the early days Strobach hauled the soda water from the springs to Yakima in a water wagon. Fred Parker, pioneer attorney declares Soda Springs was the only playground of every person in the valley during the early days.

"I will never forget the Fourth of July celebration at Soda Springs in 1887," Parker comments. Watson C. Squire, governor of Washington territory; Judge George Turner, John B. Allen, U.S. senator; J.B. Reavis, supreme judge; Hiram Dustin, district U.S. attorney and Parker were members of a special party at the Springs.

"There had been a big legal case on here in Yakima and all of the models were here. When I drove the party to the Springs on the even of the Fourth. On account of the governor being there the place was unusually popular. There were some 1500 persons at the event. Dustin was the hit of the day with his famous left handed fiddling," Parker tells. Judge Turner, Parker and Gov. Squire are the only members of the party still alive.

While some only some of the 300 witnesses have been called if the actual number of times persons testified in the hearing was recorded the number would total more than 1000. Old-timers each testified in many cases. Pioneers to appear in the court, day after day, are Wallace Wiley, John Linder, Ben C. Elgin, Thomas B. Nelson, Felica Stanton, Mary A. Splawn, John Wetsel, Taylor Hughes, William Hughes and Mary E. Simpson. Yakima Republic, January 28, 1924.

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"In the faces of these women rests a certain kindness that must be inter-  
in tribute to American womanhood. These brave women, among the first to  
come West, have made it possible for our women of today to have the  
luxuries they now enjoy. To them we owe a real tribute," comments Chase.  
"The same is true of the men. I can see a glimmer in every eye of these old  
pioneers. Many of them retain a perfect memory of the early days. They love  
to talk over old times. While old in years they are still young men and  
women in heart. The state calls this a litigation hearing. To the early  
settlers who are called as witnesses it is a pioneers' picnic filled with  
and romance," the engineer continues.

John Lindsey, a settler of 1865, is considered the oldest living  
man on the Ahtanum. He has a perfect memory and is one of the most  
valued witnesses, "Chase says. Nathan Olney came in the same year as  
Lindsey. Thomas B. Nelson came through the valley in 1857 with an ox team.  
He later settled in the Ahtanum.

The total cost of the Ahtanum hearing is estimated at \$1500. There are  
10,200 acres involved in the case.

The case will be going on for three weeks and will continue  
at least two weeks more. Some 100 witnesses have been called and at  
least 176 more are to be summoned. There are 250 claims to be  
settled. At the termination of court last night 119 claims had been heard.

Chase left last night for Olympia to be one day in his office.  
The proceedings have been discontinued from Friday evening until Monday  
morning. Monday, Holden Shumate & Cheney will start on the first of 53 claims.  
The average holdings on He later settled on the Ahtanum (Copy)  
The Yakima Daily Republic, January 19, 1924.

Growers on the Sunnyside reclamation unit this season produced crops returning on an average \$97.06 per acre, a gain of 23 per cent over the average acre return a year ago which was \$78.14 according to the annual crop report completed Thursday by J.L. Lytel, USRS project manager.

this total estimated return on the project is \$7,766,000 while the 1922 return was but \$6,309,919, a gain of \$1,456,487. During the past season there was a reduction of 745 acres in the amount of land cropped.

These be Volstead days but even so the humbled hop was the most profitable crop grown on the project. It yielded \$464.35 per acre. Second place goes to the small fruits which averaged \$400 per acre and third to pears \$323.67 an acre.

The least profitable crop was the sugar beet which on account of the blight returned but \$12.31 per acre.

Apples lead when it comes to total crop production. The fruit which caused Eve's downfall and which some growers have been inclined to curse during the past season returned \$2,998,485 to the project farmers, bringing them \$299.52 per acre. As contrasted Alfalfa was second with a crop \$1,730,037. The acreage return is low, being but \$45.72 this season as contrasted with \$54.07 for a year ago. Low as the return is the season conditions among the hay growers have been worse. In 1921 the average return was \$34 per acre. Sunnyside farmers went in strong for potatoes, planting 6,210 acres to the humble tuber and getting \$884,213 or \$142.39 per acre in return.

Times may be hard among the farmers of the Sunnyside district but there are 681 more automobiles on the unit than there were a year ago and a decline of 85 in the number of horses. The Sunnyside ranchers, if they could all sell their cars at a fair valuation, would have \$1,188,161 to bank.



Efforts of the Sunnyside Commercial club to increase the amount of dairy stock on the unit are apparently successful.

The **unit** gained 248 head of dairy cattle and now has \$743,688 worth of the milk producers chewing their cuds in the alfalfa fields. In addition there are 5,798 head of sheep, 19,211 porkers and \$184,258 worth of poultry--The Yakima Daily Republic, Friday, January 18, 1924.

Another gusher, this time in the Pomona district is reported by Henry R. Linse with a flow estimated at from 1,500 to 2,000 gallons a minute steadily.

The striking of the flow was the result of six months steady work during which two shafts were sunk and in each case a considerable thickness of rock penetrated.

The Linse well is about 2 1-2 miles east of Pomona station and 1 1-2 miles east of the East Pelah school house. It is situated on an acre of land belonging to Mr. Linse but only a short distance from a tract of 920 acres belonging to Mr. Linse and his partner, Henry Froemke.

Sinking of the shaft was started on January 15. At a depth of 115 feet much of it through rock and crevice rock at that, it was found necessary to pull the drills and begin again.

The second time rock was again encountered. In all 120 feet of rock was pierced by the drill. Of the 120 feet, 40 feet consisted of obstinate and difficult crevice. A 12 inch hole was sunk to a depth of 120 feet and from that point down a nine inch hole.

Twice before the flowing water was found strata of water were encountered but there was no pressure. Again at a depth of 330 feet water was encountered but there was no pressure and it would not flow from the mouth of the well.

At 420 feet, however, after the drill had gone through the hard rock and through a layer of muck it came to the sand and gravel and the flow began.

Mr. Linse estimated that the well will easily water 250 acres. He says the stream is larger than the stream furnished for the water users for 300 acres. It is the intention to sink further wells until they are able to water the entire tract from wells.



The gusher is the second to be struck in that vicinity.

The first one is that of C.A. Clark which is about 800 feet away from the new well. It is though, however, that the two wells tap different layers of water for the reason that the Linse flow comes from sand and gravel while the flow of the Clark well comes from porous rock.

Mr. Linse already has a pumping well which was sunk a year ago to a depth of 600 feet. The pumping, proposition, however was considered too expensive for irrigation and will be abandoned if artesian flow can be secured in sufficient quantity. The Yakima Herald, July 17, 1912.

Henry Thompson.

Drilling of the well was started on January 13. At a depth

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Hopes for construction by the government of the Kittitas, Wapato and Benton reclamation projects within the next five years has been wiped out by the report of the board of army engineers and its approval by the president, given out at Washington last night.

Out of a total of \$45,000,000 estimated receipts for the next five years including a special appropriation of \$20,000,000 Washington projects are to receive but \$1,928,000, the bulk of the money going to other states.

For the completion of the Sunnyside unit \$1,250,000 is given, for the Tieton \$665,000 and for the Kkanogan \$13,000.

A special dispatch to the Republic says:

Washington, Dec. 27—Out of \$45,000,000 allocated by President Taft for carrying on government irrigation work during the next five years Oregon receives \$925,000; Montana approximately \$8,000,000; Idaho \$7,000,000; Wyoming over \$6,000,000; Colorado \$5,000,000 and the Rio Grande project partly in Mexico and partly in Texas gets \$7,000,000. Texas and Mexico contributed nothing to the reclamation funds.

Nearly \$20,000,000 and \$2,000,000 is allocated to the Yakima project.

Specifically the president set apart \$1,250,000 for the Sunnyside unit and \$665,000 for the Tieton unit of the Yakima project. These allotments like those for Oregon projects bear interest at 3 per cent.

In addition the president sets aside \$13,000, to complete the Okanogan project which is now in an advanced stage.

No specific allotments are made for the Kittitas, Wapato, or Benton units of the Yakima project which means that their construction must be postponed until after 1916. Plans are prepared



for these three projects but evidently the board and the president took the position that Washington would be adequately cared for by the existing projects.

The allotment for Sunnyside will complete the canal down to Prosser and the allotment to the Tieton will complete the water system including the conversion of two lakes into permanent storage reservoirs and will complete such work as remains to be done on the distribution system of this unit.

H.B. Scudder of the Yakima High Line Ditch association who has been taking a very unselfish interest in the promotion of that great project felt much aggrieved when he was informed by a representative of the Republic of the appropriation made by the board of army engineers and the president of the reclamation funds.

He regarded the appropriation as a great injustice to the state of Washington and to the people of the Yakima, Kittitas valleys and Benton county/

Mr. Scudder pointed out that the granting to the reclamation service of ~~the~~ an extension of three years in the time when the government may have absolute control of the waters of the Yakima Water shed prevents the full development of any project in the whole Yakima valley, including Kittitas, Yakima and Benton counties until such time as the government completes the reservoir system. This he says is taking unfair advantage of the effort which was made to clear the way for the government inasmuch as but for the original agreement in the limiting of private water rights neither the Sunnyside, Tieton, Wapato, Kittitas or Benton projects would ~~be~~ have been possible.....Yakima Republic,  
Dec.30, 1910.



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Reclamation - Kacher

Work of the season has been practically completed, Engineer Swigart said Saturday after returning from Easton where he had inspected the work being done by Engineer Baldwin for the reclamation service.

Mr. Swigart said that aside from the placing of a small portion of the concrete for the big conduit from Lake Kaches (copy) which it was hoped to install before severe winter weather, the working force would shortly be reduced to the minimum.

The work which the reclamation service is doing in the Yakima watershed for the development of the available water supply is immense.

Temporary work has been going on for years but first step in the permanent development of the lake is the laying of this conduit is really the first step in the permanent development. Mr. Swigart says that during the winter final plans will be perfected that bids for the dam construction can be asked for next spring.

The outlet of the lake which has been heretofore and is still in use is so high that a vast quantity of the water in the lake has been unavailable but the conduit now being laid will make it possible to take water 30 feet deeper from the lake than now and the contemplated dam will raise the water 37 feet above the present level, adding another vast quantity to the water available for irrigation in the Kittitas and Yakima valleys.

This conduit is 12 feet in diameter and 2,500 feet long to the dam site and 500 feet in length from the dam to the point where it connects with the river bed.

In the season of 1911 there will be available in storage reservoirs 40,000 acre feet more than in the last season and in the



following year an additional 20,000 acre feet.

The past season a total of 66,000 acre feet has been available but even the addition of 40,000 the coming season and 20,000 in 1912 is not but a beginning as can be seen from the statement that the total amount which is available of development at Lake Kachess is 210,000 acre feet and at Lake Cle Elum 425,000 acre feet, the total of which added to the 34,000 feet developed at Bumping Lake the past season and now available makes a grand total of 811,000. Yet Kittitas and Yakima valleys that as our Supervising Engineer Swigart expresses it "when all this water is available there will still be thousands of acres of dry land in these valleys."

During the past season 100 men have been employed in excavation work at Lake Kachess and if the contract be let for the dam several hundred men will be required there next season. Further development work depends upon the allotments to the Yakima project of moneys available for reclamation work--the Yakima Republic, Dec. 16, 1910.

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