

## WORD PICTURE OF HERMISTON DISTRICT

Byron E. Cooney, a correspondent of the Butte Evening News, has recently visited Hermiston and the Umatilla project and wrote the following really beautiful word picture of that project for his paper. Mr. Cooney says:

Montanans have "it" on the Umatilla tract. They found it out almost as quickly, in fact some of them found it sooner than did the United States reclamation service.

Having visited most of the northwestern reclamation projects and several of private or corporation ownership I was naturally anxious to see the piece of ground for which Uncle Sam claims more merit than any of the other 26.

I dropped into the Umatilla desert one hot afternoon when it was 110 in the shade, and no shade except what could be found beneath monstrous sage. Soon my arm ached from shaking hands with home folk and when I broke bread with them at their newly created city of Hermiston it was with a prodigal feeling that I had wasted years while they had been building homes and cities.

Turn to the northeast corner of the map of Oregon where the Oregon Railroad & Navigation dips into a bow to the south and you will see the Umatilla tract wedged arrowhead shaped into the peninsula formed by the junction of the Umatilla and Columbia rivers. If my friends had desired to advance arguments to keep me away from the project they could have done no better than they did in taking me across those burning sands on divers trips.

But there was method in their apparent madness. Those Utiander were preparing me for the contrasting scenes which were to follow. A more inhospitable waste I have never looked upon, made doubly so by virtue of local option and by the existence of a noxious mixture known as "near beer."

But when I found the fringes of the desert and saw the possibilities which would soon be realized all over the tract my appreciation was whetted and my enthusiasm keyed to a high pitch. For far above the reservoir of 17,000,000,000 of water lay ready to work its miracle and on the small space on which the water is already turned verdure sprang rank as a tropical jungle.

**A Northern Desert.**  
Mercilessly the sun pours its torrent of heat into this great dry gulch, which, nine miles long and six miles wide, lies drought stricken between the heights of land which bank the Columbia and the Umatilla. Ruthlessly the sagebrush plain throws back the blinding sunlight until the headlands waver and the sky line is blurred by the heat waves from this northern desert.

## TWICE CURED OF SKIN TROUBLES

First Case a Rash Which Itched and Stung—Threatened Ten Years Later With Blood-Poison in Leg—But Both Times the Sufferer's

### RELIANCE IN CUTICURA PROVED WELL-FOUNDED

"About twelve or fifteen years ago, while living in West Virginia, I had a breaking-out, and it itched and stung so badly that I could not have any peace because of it. I saw three doctors and they did not agree on what it was, so one of them gave me something that he called medicine, but I called it soda water. I might just as well have washed in rain-water. Then I got some Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment, and Cuticura Resolvent and began to get better right away. They cured me and I have not been bothered with the itching since, to amount to anything. About two years ago I had a grippe and pneumonia, which left me with a pain in my side. Treatment ran it into my leg, which then swelled and began to break out. It got in pretty bad shape, so I went to a doctor. He was afraid it would turn to blood-poison. I used his medicine but it did no good. So I sent for another set of the Cuticura Remedies. I used them three times and cured the breaking-out on my leg. Now I won't be without Cuticura. J. F. Hennen, R. F. D. 3, Milan, Mo., May 13, 1907."

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Nodding Billie owls with stupid mien but twinkling eye prey on the sand lizard and the ground mouse; the coyote with out-hanging tongue trots a stone's throw ahead of the stage; the eagle with a snake pendant in his clutches lumbers across the landscape; horned toads scurry over the white heat breathing road and lend, hungry jack rabbits lops to high ground and squat to gaze askance at the intruder.

The monster dragon fly that ogre of the insect world, bearing the grasshopper he had butchered, stops to rest on the whip handle. Dust rises and chokes and smarts and penetrates, and the cacti raise their unfriendly spine-bristling arms in a land bereft of friendliness.

Such is the Umatilla desert. Such is the picture which within a year shall have passed from the map by the activity of progressive and paternal government. This hitherto hopeless plain had been an accident—a hiatus in the schemes of the god-head. Hedged and walled by verdant fruitful districts, encircled by the flashing ripples of two laughing rivers, bathed in the golden glory of an unclouded sun, it has lain like the body of a giant into which the water spirit had forgotten to breathe its breath of life.

**Miracle at Hand.**  
But the traveler, looking from the highlands to the valley, may see eastward like a soft blue sapphire and westward like a square of emerald jade set in a plaque of Roman gold, the reservoir above and the first oasis at Hermiston five miles below.

The miracle of the waters is at hand. Several years ago the government sent out scientists into the district. They came with microscopes and sextants and theodolites and straddle-bugs. They analyzed the soil, they sampled the air, they tasted the water, they dissected the sunbeams and they measured the tract as a tailor measuring a customer for a new garment.

A few years later the nephews of Uncle Sam—they of the reclamation service—came to wipe the desert off the map. It is an interesting work; a truly Olympic game. Like Titans they tore down mountains and piled them in the gorge; they reached 26 miles away and snatched the thread of silver from the derelict Umatilla river, they made a lake and tomorrow they will make a garden and a forest and a commonwealth.

Today the desert lies below that lake in the blistering sun and quivers in expectation. At last the sleeping giant is to come into its own.

**A Monster Task.**  
Two hundred and fifty men toiled two years to build that dam at a cost of nearly a million and a quarter dollars. Half a dozen U. S. R. S. locomotives hauled their hundred dump cars, a hundred teams sweated in the burning sun. Five hundred feet in thickness at its base, a hundred feet high, 3520 feet in length, the biggest earthen dam in the world holds back enough water to cover the 22,000 acres of the tract with a depth of two and a half feet.

As Moses struck the rock and the water gushed forth, so the man in the water tower pulls his lever and the life-giving fluid is freed to make a jungle of a Sahara.

At present the main conduit is watering only the land adjacent to Hermiston city, where a city has sprung up in a year. Here is made the tile which cuts so important a figure in the tract, for this project will probably have less open ditch than any other project in America. Thirty men are employed at the tile factory to make five miles of piping.

One link of this conduit tile is a wagon load for four horses, who require an entire day to haul it to its destination, with four men to load and unload it. The link is eight feet in length and two inches less than four feet in diameter.

This is the largest concrete pipe in the world. It is reinforced with steel wire. The tiles are laid along the line of the main ditches on the grades and will all be set and joined this winter after the factory has completed the five miles of pipe it must make.

The lateral pipes are smaller and measure respectively 30, 16 and 12 inches.

**Running Water Uphill.**  
This project is unlike any other government irrigation scheme in the number of engineering perplexities it has presented. The country is rolling with waves of ground which make water grades a despair. Much as Uncle Sam can do he cannot make water run up hill.

Yet to bring a gushing fountain to the high point in every 40 acres is

the promise of the reclamation service, and this can only be done by the use of siphons following the dip of every miniature valley. It is for this reason that the tract needs so much concrete pie. There are miles and miles and miles of open ditch and pipe is used only where absolutely necessary.

Of all the 26 irrigation projects on which the government is spending \$40,000,000, the Umatilla project is the pet. It is the darling of the desert gods.

It is to be the masterpiece of the department of the interior. No where else will such results be obtained, such a metamorphosis be accomplished, such a miracle be performed.

Arthur Davis, chief engineer of the reclamation service, said in a statement authorized for publication: "The Umatilla project is, in my estimation, the best irrigation scheme in America. There is no question of the ultimate result. This little valley has the conditions of climate, water supply, sunshine and soil which will make it without a peer among the irrigated districts of America. We hesitate to compare other projects with it."

Foley's Kidney Remedy will cure any case of kidney or bladder trouble that is not beyond the reach of medicine. No medicine can do more. Pendleton Drug Company.

**WAR ON SICK COWS.**  
Minnesota to Rid the State of the Menace of Tuberculosis.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 18.—Plans for ridding the state of tubercular cattle are under discussion at a conference of cattle breeders, dairymen and health officials here today. Dr. S. H. Ward, secretary of the live stock board, estimates that it will cost \$1,000,000 a year to rid the state of tubercular cattle.

Proposals have been made to prevent the evil effects of tuberculosis in milk by having all creameries pas-

teurize milk and cream which goes into the butter they make. The skimmed milk fed to hogs is pasteurized if it passed through a creamery and it is proposed to take as good care of the hables as of the pigs.

Some of the topics for discussion at the conference are: "On whom shall responsibility fall when a cow is found to be infected after a sale?" "To what extent shall owners be compensated for the loss of tubercular cattle?"

At present the owner stands only one-third of the loss. "Should a clean bill of health accompany each bill of sale of cattle?" "What steps shall the state take to prevent dairymen from buying diseased cows?" "What additional steps shall the state take to eradicate tuberculosis from the state?"

**Long Horse Back Trip.**  
Having ridden nearly 400 miles on horseback through the wilds of Oregon and Washington, having seen peaks they had no idea existed west of the Rockies, crossing trails and mountain passes that thrilled the riders, Mayor M. K. Hall, Charles Vurpillat and Will Church returned last evening from a two weeks' outing on the Walla Walla river, and two branch streams of that river, the Skip Horton and the Rough Works, says the La Grande Observer.

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" Omaha	- 30.00	" Cincinnati	- 42.20
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