WEST UMATILLA PROJECT ONE OF BEST IN THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES

elevation of the irrigated areas

Earth Dam Is Leaking

"Taking the project as a whole

withstood almost the maximum head

and appears stable, although its

height of 98 feet makes it one of the high earth dams of the country.

Leakage under the dam, amounting

flox. None of the low water dis

charge is available for the project as

The only important engi-

470 feet above sea level...

dam and at its end.

If Secretary Ballinger and President the Umatilla, from which river Taft are inclined to apportion funds takes its water supply at a point Water Company and Brownell Ditch for the construction of the West several miles upstream. The average Company. This will reduce the total Umatilla irrigation project in Eastern Oregon, they need no stronger justification for making a liberal al-Ictment than is to be found in the report of the Board of Army Engineers the engineering structures are apparsays a Washington special to a Port- ently satisfactorily designed and ex-

Every comment of the board on neering structure is the earth dam this project is favorable; the project closing the outlet the cold springs is found to be feasible, practical and reservoir. This dam has already is found to be feasible, practical and reservoir. economical. As a matter of fact, the report of the board is strong enough to justify an allotment to this project \$4,000,000, which, it is estimated, will cover the entire cost of completing the West Side project to a point where it will irrigate 60,000 acres of It is said that increase of head against

It is true that the board did not recommend such an allotment, but its failure to so recommend was not based upon any lack of merit or any question as to its feasibility. The board merely said:

The proposed West Eextension be ing entirely distinct, should be postponed for the present on account of the large amount of money needed for the completon of other projects to which the United States is committed by the large expenditures al-

Board Reports Upon Project. Below is quoted in full exactly what the board had to say with regard to the West Umntilla project:

"The people of Hermiston and cinity are very desirous that the government extend this project to the west side of the Umatilla river, where the reclamation of from 40,000 to 60 .-000 arces of land by a gravity system is proposed. This extension was the main subject discussed at the public hearing. The development, while being properly an extension of the Umatilla project, inasmuch as it would receive its water from . the same source and lie contiguous to the areas at present being irrigated, yet is in the nature of new work as its development bears in no way the completion of the present unit of the project. The extension would require the construction of a reservoir of a capacity of about 135,000 acrefeet by building a dam in the Umatilla river near the mouth of Butter The water surface would be raised about 70 feet, and the supply would then be distributed over the land by a gravity system. This gravity plan could be supplemented to cover about \$0,000 acres more by electric pumping, should this further extension be deemed desirable. Reservations on the Des Chutes river for a dam site with which to develop power have been made, the power to be used in pumping water from the gravity canals or from the Columbia river to the areas not irrigable by any gravity system. If the water supply is sufficient, the total area of the proposed extensions can be expanded to about 100,000 acres, including the

pumping project. "Experience on ject and on private projects at Irrigon and Kennewick indicate that the soil is abundantly able to produce fruits and alfalfa as well as vegetables and berries. The climate is suitable thereto, and although the are s are swept by strong winds throughout the spring of each year the soil can be protected by cultivating windbreaks. Of the area under the proposed gravity system there are but 17,000 acres of public land. remaining land belongs either to the Northern Pacific railroad or is now in private ownership through homestead and desert land entries, or thro purchase from the railroad. Hydrographs for 12 consecutive years indicate that there will be a surplus of over 200,000 acre-feet, making allowances for private rights and the requirements for the main Umatilia

Water Assured for 50,000 Acres 'Allowing five feet evaporation or the average area of the proposed reservoir-3200 acres-and a loss of 5000 acre-feet for a 6 per cent loss in the distribution, a total loss of 21,-000 acre-feet of storage water is to be The use of concrete lined distributaries is proposed by the reclamation service, which it is expected will reduce the losses from seepage to the low amount stated. By using flood water direct it is calculated from the records by the reclamation engineers that a surplus of 22 acre-inches only will need to be stored, which gives a total of 112,000 acre-feet of stored water to be carried over if the reservoir were filled. It thus appears from these assumptions that the water supply will be sufficient for 50,000 acers if the pro-

posed reservoir be built. "The cost of this extension, exclusive of the pumping system, but including the dam across the Umatilla river with its accessories, estimated at about \$1.000,000, amounts in all to nearly \$4,000,000. This is approximately \$80 per acre for an area of

50,000 acres. The board's comment in the East Umatilla project is hiso very favorable, and so strongly is this uni. commended that it is somewhat remarkable that the board failed to recommened any alotment for continuing construction on the west side of the Umatilla river. Of the original Uma-tilla project, the board's report in

part says: "The board visited the Umatilla project near Hermiston,

"A public hearing was held on the evening of September 7, in Hermiston, at which those interested were given an opportunity to make statements to the board. In general, they expressed their approval of the work under the project, both as to

progress and cost, "The project covers the irrigation of about 25,000 acres lying in the angle between the Umatilla and the Columbia rivers on the east side of

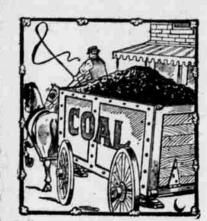
water rights appear to have never been adjudicated but application has been made by the United States to the State Board of Control for a determination of the priority and amount of all claims. This determination is now in progress,

"The experience of this year (1910) indicates that the return flow the river will be sufficien, to supply the priorities of the Oregon Land & in the tabulation of 719 second-feet and 154,000 acre-feet, respectively. Moreover, since the Maxwell will not be operated prior to March 15 it is not likely that the maximum rate of diversion of the Maxwell Canal and the feed canal will occur at the same time, so it appears that priorities for existing project may be considered as a total of 154,000 acrefeet, and a maximum rate of diver sion not exceeding 670 second-feet.

Water Supply Is Ample "It thus appears that the supply is sufficient to provide water to about 1.3 second-feet, was observed for the proposed project, with consid-

erable surplus. the dam does not increase the flow materially. This is being watched and is not thought to be serious. It ing 62,500 acre-feet. If 33 per cent is assumed by the reclamation ser- loss from evaporation and seepage be vice that this leakage is through allowed in the laterals and five feet seams in the foundation under ' the evaporation in the reservoir, the total amount required would be about The water supply is taken from the 101,000 acre-feet to supply 2 1-2 Umatilla river and consists of flood acre-feet on the land. The capacity

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