

NEED FOR IRRIGATION PROJECT IS ARGUED

Efforts to Have Congress Approve Columbia Basin Scheme Have Aroused Differences of Opinion in Cabinet Departments Over Proper Policy to Pursue



The plan for irrigation of the Columbia basin in the state of Washington has developed a difference between the departments of agriculture and interior as to how soon the 1,833,000 acres it would reclaim will be needed as farm land. The agriculture department believes it will not be required for several decades. Above is typical waste land of the sort the project would make tillable; below is a scene on such land that has been reclaimed.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Efforts to have congress authorize the irrigation of approximately two million acres of arid land in the Columbia river basin of southeastern Washington have aroused a sharp difference of opinion between the department of agriculture and the department of the interior as to a proper land policy for the government to pursue.

In general the interior department favors systematic reclamation of waste areas while the agricultural department urges more extensive use of farms already occupied. Specifically, the former believes development of the Columbia basin will be essential to agricultural expansion within 15 years. The latter insists there already is an abundance of tillable farm land for several decades and that potential resources should not be brought into use so rapidly as to cause a chronic surplus of farm products.

Federal Approval Sought.
The Columbia basin project, as presented to the senate and house committees on irrigation and reclamation, involves only the question of federal authorization. That gained, the next step will be to acquire whatever appropriations are needed to open individual districts.

Present legislation is not concerned with the time the entire project or any part of it is to be completed. The impression prevails, however, that if the plan be approved, funds to start development of small acreages will be sought within the next few years and that the total cost will approximate \$115,000,000, nearly double the sum spent on all of the 24 reclamation projects now under federal promotion.

Grange Master Opposed.
Albert S. Goas, master of the Washington State Grange, which stands virtually alone in its opposition to the project, infers from his reception by the house committee that it will favor the Columbia basin bill. In that event, he says, defeat of the measure likely will depend upon the strength of those in the house who "see the economic danger of premature land development."

It is the position of the Grange that to open more land in Washington will be to encourage additional surpluses of the three major irrigated crops—apples, potatoes and alfalfa—which it says already suffer such a price depression that farm abandonment embarrasses the federal land bank of that region. The Grange does not question the agricultural wealth to be developed in the Columbia basin "whenever there is an economic demand for more farm products."

Extension Held Unwise.
The argument follows closely a statement by Nils A. Olsen, assistant chief of the United States bureau of agricultural economics, that "much of the farmers' trouble has been due to federal and state land policies that stimulated unwise extension of agricultural production."

Reclamation experts of the interior department are inclined to blame faulty distribution of farm products, rather than overproduction, for present farm ills. They characterize as "short-sighted" any land policy that does not recognize the normal increase in farm population, and declare there is an annual demand for 100,000 new farms.

While agricultural economists hold up the abandonment of 20 million acres in two years as an argument against creation of more farm land, reclamation officials point to the abandonment as evidence of a real need for expansion. They declare the abandoned land never was productive, or has been worn out, that all profitable land is in cultivation now, and that only by reclamation can the producing area be increased.

QUEER BELIEFS KEPT BY INDIANS

Among the Tribes of the Great Arizona Desert There Is Still a Deep Veneration for the Medicine Man



Apache, Navajo and Hopi Indian wards of Uncle Sam in the great southwest are less barbarous than they used to be, but far from civilized yet. Medicine men like the one at the right still minister with primitive rites to the sick, and superstition holds sacred the cactus plants (left), which grow like crosses in the desert. Below is a typical Navajo home.

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(AP)—Uncle Sam's benevolent influence, exerted over a long period of years to improve the lot of the nomadic inhabitants of the great Arizona desert, has modified many of the strange and semi-religious superstitions of the Indian peoples, but it has not destroyed them.

Among the tribes of the desert and other regions of the southwest, there is still a deep veneration for the medicine man of garish garb. Especially this is true

among the Navajos. He treats the ills of his tribesmen in his primitive, crude and sometimes barbarous way until, now and then, the government steps in and has a physician minister to the sick, often against the wishes of members of the Indian's family.

Snake Dance Maintained.
The Hopi Indian snake dance has been maintained as an annual tribal religious rite although frowned on and at intervals more tangibly opposed by the agencies of civilization. The snakes are caught in the bushes and thrown to the dancers who hold them in their mouths and go through a weird ceremony, swinging the serpents back and forth, with the heads of the snakes in the dancers' mouths. With the conclusion of the rites the snakes, regarded as sacred creatures, are released to return to their desert haunts.

Certain kinds of cactus that grow in the form of a cross are held to be the work of the gods by many of the Indians and as such, sacred.

Do Not Wear Clothes.
In the warm regions, the younger members of such tribes as the Apaches, do not wear clothes, but when a certain age is reached Uncle Sam requires them to don the raiment of their white brothers and sisters.

The desert Indians have no furniture in their living quarters, which are portable and easily moved from place to place. The Navajo squaws earn most of the living for the families weaving rugs and the bucks provide meat for the menu, hunting such game as the desert affords.

ITALIAN PILOTS ON HAZARDOUS FLIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)
58 hours recently under the handling of the two aviators.

LONDON, July 4.—(AP)—The steamship *Tonic Star* radioted to the Associated Press at 10:15 Greenwich time that it had received a message from the Savoia plane in which Captain Arturo Ferrarin and Major Carlo P. Del Prate are attempting a non-stop flight from Italy to Brazil, saying that all was well.

Striking Knocked Out Harris.
MACON, Ga., July 4.—(AP)—A crowd of more than 3000 persons tonight saw W. L. (Young) Stripling, Macon heavyweight, knock out "Bucky" Harris of Wichita, Kansas, in the third round of a ten-round bout.

INSURE WITH HENRY TROMP.

RESCUE HALTED BY ICE

KRASSIN UNABLE TO BREAK WAY THROUGH MASSES

In the meantime the floe on which Marooned Men Are Huddled, Is Drifting

ROME, July 4.—(AP)—The Russian ice-breaker *Krassin*, seeking to rescue the marooned members of the ill-fated *Italia's* crew from their floating refuge near Foyen Island, again has been halted by huge masses of ice, says a message from the base ship *Citta di Milano*.

In the meantime the floe on which the men are huddled is drifting westward, having reached tonight a position five miles west of that reported yesterday. Thus the rescue vessel and the men it hopes to save are less than 50 miles apart. A new effort to pick up the six marooned men, this time by means of a light "moth" airplane, will be made from Esmerack Island, nine miles from their reported position, under the auspices of the Swedish expedition and the big tri-motored

Upland plane will shortly head for the island to establish an operations base.

Amundsen Reported Found.
The Italian plane *Marina I* left Tromsø, Norway, for North Cape in an endeavor to confirm rumors that fishermen had found Captain Roald Amundsen and his comrades, missing since they set out more than two weeks ago to search for the members of the *Italia's* crew. It was unable to reach that point, however, because of adverse weather and sea conditions, and was forced to return. The attempt will be renewed as soon as conditions permit.

On board the *Citta di Milano* General Nobile's condition continues bad, with worry over his comrades and the failure of his expedition preventing as rapid recuperation as his doctors had hoped would be the case.

ONE ARREST MADE.
Phil Nease was arrested at the Lane county fair grounds late last night by county officials and lodged in the county jail, charged with possession of liquor.

ISSY - LES - MOULINEAUX.
France has built the largest tank—weighing 65 tons, making eight miles an hour, carrying 12 men.

MOB SEEKS BLUEBEARD

MEMBERS MAKE ATTEMPT TO LYNCH JEROME PRAT

Prisoner Is Charged With Throttling of Three Women and Disappearance of 15

MARSEILLES, France, July 4.—(AP)—An enraged Marseille mob made an earnest and decided attempt to lynch France's newest "Bluebeard," Jerome Prat, alias Pierre Rey, when he was landed here from the *Algiers* boat today. Police had expected the mob and had taken their prisoner, who is charged with the strangling of three women and the disappearance of 15 others, from the boat at Cheateau D'If. A small boat took him to a secluded quarter of the port but his identity became known there too and it was all the police could do to escort him safely to a cell.

Today's demonstration is seen as the result of published reports that Prat may escape the guillotine inasmuch as French law decrees no one over the age of 60 may be so

executed. A similar law will prevent his being transported to Devil's Island prison and so, if convicted, he probably will spend the remaining years of his life in a relatively comfortable French jail cell.

Prat today refused to be frightened at the mob and grinned while police battered heads with sticks in an effort to save his life.

TEN TEXAS DEATH TOLL

FOUR INJURED AS RESULT OF SERIES OF ACCIDENTS

DALLAS, Texas, July 4.—(AP)—Ten persons killed and four seriously injured in the toll of automobile and airplane accidents and drownings in Texas last night and today.

Four were drowned, five were

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killed in automobile accidents. One life was lost in a crash. Casper Alexander, who Fred C. Mitchell was injured when their airplane at Beaumont.

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