

THE ITEMS

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 1903.

WITHDRAW LANDS FOR RECLAMATION.

On the recommendation of irrigation engineers of the Geological Survey, who have been examining proposed irrigation sites in South-eastern Oregon, the Secretary of the Interior last Saturday ordered the temporary withdrawal of 1,080,000 acres of land lying in Harney Valley, along the Silvie River, and along the Malheur River in Malheur County.

The engineers, who have been in the field since early Spring, are convinced that in both these localities the Government can well afford to undertake the construction of storage reservoirs with a view to reclaiming large areas of fertile but dry land.

The engineers convinced themselves from preliminary examinations that the Silvie and Malheur Rivers afford plenty of water to irrigate considerable areas. Now that the lands have been withdrawn, they will hereafter, be examined in detail to determine just how great an acreage can be irrigated at reasonable cost, by impounding the water of these two streams.

The Harney Valley project, lying southeast of Burns and north and east of Lake Malheur, embraces 622,080 acres, as follows: Townships 22 to 26, ranges 31, 32 and 33; township 22, R. 32; townships 23, 24 and 25, ranges 32, 33 and 34; township 26 ranges 33 and 34, all south and east.

The Malheur River project proper embraces about 415,000 acres, lying on either side of the Malheur River and around the town of Vale, extending from the Snake River westerly half way across. In addition there has been withdrawn over 51,000 acres lying just west of this main tract, and directly on the river, which is to be utilized as a reservoir site.

The main Malheur withdrawal includes township 16, range 46; township 17, ranges 44, 45 and 46; township 18, ranges 43, 44, 45 and 46; townships 19 and 20, ranges 44, 45 and 46; township 19, range 43; fractional townships 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, range 47, lying west of the Snake River; township 16, range 48, all south and east.

In the main withdrawals the lands are with held from all save homestead entry; in the case of the reservoir sites the lands are withdrawn from all entry, as the Government hopes to head off any settlement on lands which will ultimately be included within the reservoir limits. Where settlers are encountered some arrangement

will have to be made to exchange their lands for others within the proposed irrigated district.

Great significance attaches to the withdrawals. While it is not assured that the Government will undertake at once the construction of storage reservoirs at any of the sites designated, it is safe to say that such work will be done at some future time. The fact that the withdrawals are made indicates that the fields engineers under Chief Hydrographer Newell are convinced from personal inspection that the Government can construct irrigation systems in Harney Valley utilizing the water of the Silvie river, and in Malheur Valley, utilizing the water of Malheur River. Moreover, these engineers are convinced that Government irrigation systems can be built on these localities at a reasonable cost, and from their preliminary investigations they know of no obstacle that would prevent the Government undertaking the work.

In each case the field engineers will continue their investigations to ascertain the actual cost of getting water on the land, and will determine approximately how much land can be reclaimed at a fair cost. They will also make a careful study to determine the best sites for reservoirs and for retaining dams. If in the detailed examination, the engineers find that the cost of the work will be excessive, or the expenditures disproportionate to the benefits, or if it is found impracticable to erect the necessary dams, the projects will have to be abandoned, but there have been no developments to indicate that unsatisfactory conditions will be encountered.

Hydrographer Newell and his representatives in the field recognize the fact that Oregon is one of the largest contributors to the reclamation fund, and is therefore entitled to early and liberal consideration in the way of Government irrigation works. Moreover, Mr. Newell, having been over a large part of Eastern Oregon, and having been deeply interested in its welfare by ex-Representative Moody, is anxious to assist in reclaiming much of the fertile lands east of the Cascades. It is not possible that all of the projects that may be found satisfactory will be constructed at one time, but the one offering the most promising result will undoubtedly be taken up first, and the others in the order of their importance.

Upon the examinations made this Summer, it is expected that by next Spring Secretary Hitchcock will set aside a stipulated sum for use in constructing irrigation works in Oregon, as the examinations made this Summer will demonstrate the practicability of the several works that have been suggested, and the department will be able to satisfy itself of the general merits or deficiencies of each.

Before the examinations are concluded other withdrawals may be made in Oregon, but it is considered here that the most important sites for Government irrigation have now been taken from speculative entry of all sorts.

ORIGIN OF CLOUDBURST.

Referring to the recent disaster at Heppner, Oregon, and the various theories as to its cause, in a brief way, the origin of storms of such a destructive character as has been chronicled. In tracing the history of cloudbursts, it will be found that they occur after unusual hot weather, and in the months of July and August in the northern hemisphere.

The atmosphere is a combination of oxygen and nitrogen, with a small amount of carbon dioxide; such a combination is called dry air. The vapor part varies from a very small amount to about 5 per cent of the above mass of dry air.

The action of the sun on the atmosphere is the primary cause of all disturbances, whether wind, rain or snow. The air is heated in two ways by direct rays of the

sun and by radiation. It is heated in other ways, but the heat derived from the sun is the element with which we have to deal at this time. The air being heated to an unusual temperature, rises, and when reaching a high altitude comes in contact with colder bodies of air and the vapor condenses, forming clouds. The rapidity of this formation depends upon the temperature of the air, if unusually high, the condensation will occur more rapidly, and the disturbance will be more severe. Various theories are advanced as to what a cloudburst is. It is believed that the best and most easily understood explanation or comparison is to liken the atmosphere to a sponge, if it is full of moisture and is pressed slightly, drops of water will come from it, and if pressed abruptly will come all at once. The cloud does not burst, in becomes overcharged with rain, and on level plains may come down gradually as rain; but when suddenly disturbed, as striking a mountain, or when low, striking a high hill, will be precipitated in great quantities. In Waldo's meteorology a cloudburst is defined as "a sudden and excessive downpour of rain or rain and hail, which have been carried upward or merely sustained and kept from falling from the ascending air currents, until a large amount has been accumulated aloft, when by some weakening or breaking up of the ascending currents, the whole or part of the accumulation suddenly falls to the ground. Cloudbursts are of most frequent occurrence in connection with tornadoes, where the immense velocity of the ascending current is favorable to the collection and support of great masses of water."

General Greely in "American Weather" compares them to water spouts as the conditions are similar. The theory that in water spouts the water is taken up into the clouds is erroneous, as the opposite is the case. The water comes down.

In the majority of cases cloudbursts have occurred west of the Mississippi river and principally in the mountainous regions.

In looking over the history of cloudbursts and comparing the number of lives lost, the one at Heppner seems to be the worst, considering the number of lives lost. The flood of Johnstown, Pa., in 1889, was caused by the heavy rains breaking a dam above the town. Had the dam remained intact the flood might not have occurred.—W. C. McGuinness in Baker City Democrat.

Wool Market at Ontario.

The wool market at the present time resembles the great American game of poker. The buyers are scaling from 10 to 13 cents and this figure the growers are loath to accept. There are about 2,500,000 pounds of wool offered for sale in the Ontario market this year, the largest amount in the history of the city. The buyers seem independent in their attitude and think that the growers will yield to the terms offered them. If this will be true remains to be seen.

The sheep men know the ravages of the recent storm in Montana and can guess something of the consequences on the price of wool. They realize that the loss of a million or more sheep from the western market means much to the aggregate output of wool. The wool quotations have been strong and with conditions prevailing since the storm growers hope for a still stronger upward tendency.

The situation is if the buyers can make the growers believe that the market will not rise they will get the wool, if, however, the growers hold while, they hope to receive a better price.

The wool sales in this city were opened yesterday, Thursday morning with a good representation of buyers and growers present. The bidding was brisk and about 320,000 pounds were disposed of at prices ranging from 12 to 14 cents per pound. In the M. M. Co. warehouse, where there is stored about 1,000,000 pounds, the following sales were made: Isaac & Gwinn, 150,000 pounds, at 14 cents per

pound; R. C. Goodwin, 21,000 pounds at 13; King Brown 11,000 pounds at 13 cents; H. Allison, 13,000 pounds at 13 cents; E. Douglas, 11,000 pounds at 13 cents; F. Palmer, 15,000 pounds at 13 cents; D. Rusk, 12,000 pounds at 12 cents; J. Thomson 32,000 pounds at 13 cents; R. Smith, 8,000 pounds at 13 cents; A. E. Brown, 18,000 pounds at 13 cents; R. H. Brown, 30,000 pounds at 12; At the Forwarding Company warehouse the only sale so far reported is the clip of J. C. Gordon, 21,000 pounds at 13 cents.—Argus.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, LUCAS COUNTY.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of One Hundred Dollars for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

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