

IRRIGATION PROJECT.

Over 250,000 Acres of Idaho Land to be Reclaimed.

News of the organization of the greatest irrigation project ever launched in this state, if not in the northwest, has leaked out. Moreover, the projectors of the undertaking propose to do what has always been supposed to be impossible—they will take water from the Snake river some miles above Shoshone Falls and irrigate 200,000 acres of the wonderfully fertile land that stretches away on the plateau, 1000 feet above the tumbling river. The reclamation is to be undertaken under the Carey act and the legislation enacted to carry that law into effect, and the segregation of the land has already been made at the Hailey land office.

The amount of land segregated is 217,000 acres on the south side of the river and 31,000 acres on the north side. Besides, there is 18,000 acres of school land covered on the south side and 2000 acres on the north side. As far as possible, worthless land has been eliminated from the segregation, but some of that taken is not firstclass.

There is, however, fully 200,000 acres of as fine land as is found in the west, all of which can be watered.

The project has been under way for several months under the direction of State Engineer Ross, who has made all the surveys and plats to avoid the errors and discrepancies that have caused so much trouble with other Carey act projects in this state.

The canal on the south side will be 65 miles long and that on the north side two miles. The river will be raised 38 feet. The entire work will cost \$1,500,000.

S. B. Milne, of Salt Lake, is president of the company and J. H. Lowell secretary. One of the directors, Frank Knox, is president of the Bank of the Republic of Salt Lake, and another director is K. Steunenberg, the Idaho banker.—Press dispatch from Boise.

Custom Mill at Sparta a Success.

The custom 5-stamp mill at Sparta, owned by George Chapman & Co., is successfully operating and is proving to be a valuable acquisition to the camp, say those who are feeling its direct benefits. Mine owners are energetically at work on their prospects, furnishing ore to the mill and there is a supply on hand that insures the continuous working of the mill. Hon. Jos. Wright, who is one of the owners of the Union and Grey Eagle mines, is in the city with a batch of bullion, the result of a run of ore which netted \$10 to the ton, besides concentrates that go about 4 per cent. Mr. Wright says Mr. Chapman has inaugurated an enterprise that will be of incalculable benefit to the district. Numbers of prospects will be made to pay whose owners in the absence of a mill would have to let their properties remain idle. Prospects will be developed into mines by means of the owners being enabled to pay their way as they go by having their ores worked at the custom mill, and altogether the entire camp will be put on a more substantial basis than ever before.—Democrat.

Sheep Poisoned by Licking Rocks.

Sheep poisoning got 40 more victims out of a band of 900 fine Merino bucks belonging to Hugh Fields, up Hinton creek last Sunday. When our informant, John Busick, came by there Monday morning he saw 40 of the animals lying dead in the corral. About 200 head had been poisoned, and others were dying right along, so that it is probable the whole bunch will be lost. The sheep were undoubtedly poisoned from licking a certain mineral substance which appears on

some of the rocks throughout the country when the hot sun come out just after a heavy rain. This substance is very poisonous and makes quick work of its victims. Two years ago McCarrigan, on Butter creek, lost 506 head of sheep from the same cause; five years ago 31 head belonging to Ed Day were destroyed in a similar manner; two years ago John Busick lost 12 head and many others have lost smaller amounts from time to time, but did not know what caused it. It would be a rather difficult matter to prescribe a remedy for this evil.—Exchange.

Baker County Assessed at \$2,880,253.

A press dispatch from Salem says: The summary of Baker county's assessment for 1900 has been filed in the Secretary of State's office, and reveals an increase of nearly 4 per cent in the net valuation over that of last year. There is an increase of \$80,465 in the gross valuation, and a decrease of exactly \$24,000 in the exemptions, making an increase of \$104,465 in the net taxable property. Following are the figures of the roll in detail:

	Number	Value
Acres of tillable lands.....	50,107	\$ 106,030
Acres of non-tillable lands.....	138,722	210,015
Imps. on deeded lands.....		186,415
Town and city lots.....		451,550
Imps. on town lots.....		482,315
Imps. on lands not deeded.....		11,500
Miles of railroad bed.....	90.6	903,300
Miles of tel. and telep. lines.....	182.6	14,805
Rolling stock.....		45,760
Steamboats, etc.....		81,100
Merchandise, etc.....		216,700
Farming implements, etc.....		16,025
Money.....		26,710
Notes and accounts.....		87,150
Shares of stock.....	1,105	51,075
Household furniture, etc.....		11,110
Horses and mules.....	1,474	42,820
Cattle.....	15,185	100,115
Sheep.....	30,740	58,415
Swine.....	1,421	1,210
Gross value of property.....		\$2,066,260
Exemptions.....		86,005
Total value of taxable property.....		\$2,880,255

Stamps Now Dropping on the Brazos.

The Brazos mine, in Pleasant Valley district, owned by Al Geiser and the Blewetts, can now be given a place on the list of producing mines in Baker county. On Thursday afternoon the 10-stamps of the new mill just completed on the property began dropping. All the machinery worked smooth and there was not a hitch anywhere. The plant has been running ever since being started and no property in Baker county has a better prospect for successful operation. Mr. Albert Geiser, who is the manager of the property, said yesterday that the Brazos was the equal to any mine in these gold fields. It is well developed for economical working and there was no end of ore in sight. Two men can knock down all the ore the mill can handle. At this time there are only five men employed—two in the mill, a carman and two miners. The mill can reduce about 40 tons of ore per day, the ore being very soft. Gold is fast accumulating on the plates and the future of the Brazos is exceedingly promising.—Democrat.

Free Coinage Incorporated.

The Free Coinage property on Cracker creek, near the famous Golconda mine, was yesterday incorporated by V. A. Schilling, Ed Cannon and W. L. Boise. The capital stock of the corporation is fixed at \$1,000,000. At a meeting of the incorporators held this morning Mr. Cannon was elected president, Mr. Schilling secretary and Mr. Boise treasurer. The company proposes to resume development work at once and continue sinking operations to the 300-foot level. The shaft is down 100 feet already. As soon as the 300-foot level is reached enough ore is expected to be in sight to warrant the erection of a stamp mill and keep it running for two years. Until that much ore is in sight no mill will be built. The company will set aside from 100,000 to 200,000 shares of stock for development purposes.—Portland Telegram.

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