

# STUPENDOUS IRRIGATION

## Secretary of The Interior Has Approved Plans For Payette And Boise Rivers.

The Secretary of the Interior has tentatively approved plans for a stupendous irrigation project to be constructed in the valleys of Payette and Boise rivers, in southwestern Idaho. This information will be especially interesting to those who are familiar with the publications of the United States Geological Survey. One of the most recent geologic folios issued by the Survey is that relating to the Nampa quadrangle, which is situated near the lower end of Snake River valley, mostly in Canyon county, Idaho. Mr. Waldemar Lindgren, author of the folio, states that in this region, owing to the lack of rainfall, vegetation is scant, and the entire quadrangle may be called a sage-brush desert. He calls attention to the fact that, with the exception of the flood plains of the Boise and Payette rivers, tributaries of Snake river, where there is a natural sub-irrigation that keeps vegetation growing, and some places along Willow creek, where underground water provides similar subirrigation, the agricultural lands of the quadrangle must be irrigated.

In view of this great need, it is gratifying to learn that work has been begun to bring under one comprehensive national irrigation project 372,000 acres of land, or more than the total irrigated area of Arizona, Washington, or Mexico. In compliance with a request from the majority of the landowners of the Boise and Payette valleys, the Secretary of the Interior has ordered a continuance of the surveys and investigations preliminary to actual construction work. A sufficient sum for the completion of the work will be set aside as soon as the settlers perfect the necessary organization to secure to the reclamation fund the return of the money required for the undertaking.

The project comprises two features, a masonry dam in the Payette river and works for the diversion of water from Boise river. Associated with the dam in Payette river is a canal on each side of the stream, that on the south side connecting with a large pumping plant. The dam will be ninety feet high, 50 feet long on top, and 125 feet long on the bottom. The capacity of the reservoir will be 190,000 acre feet. The north side canal will have a length of twenty miles, the south side forty miles. The estimated cost of these works is \$1,200,000. By means of them 1000 cubic feet of water may be diverted every second for the irrigation of 150,000 acres of land.

The works for the diversion of waters from the Boise river consists of a dam ten feet high, 400 feet long on top, and 400 feet on the bottom, constructed of concrete, steel and timber. The capacity of the reservoir will be 150,000 feet. Two diversion canals, one on each side of the river, will have a combined length of 135 miles and a bottom width varying from forty-five to

ninety feet. The estimated cost of this section of the project is \$2,000,000, making the cost of the entire project \$3,200,000.

No other region of the United States presents a more attractive field for the engineers of the reclamation service. The lands in these valleys lie at an elevation ranging from 2,100 to 2,800 feet and the climate is pleasant the year round. The winters are moderate, as the thermometer rarely falls to zero, and the valleys are protected from winds. The summers are long and warm, and with the help of irrigation, promote the most rapid vegetable growth. The soil is rich and productive, adapted to all the fruits and cereals of the temperate zone. All deciduous fruits and berries produce abundantly. Large quantities of apples and prunes are shipped to eastern markets, where they bring the highest prices.

Since the government withdrawals were made under this project, intending settlers have filed on more than 13,000 acres. An especially interesting feature in connection with this great work is the fact that its construction means not only a vast increase in the cultivated area of this part of the state, but also the final settlement of those vexed questions that are now continually rising in these valleys from the effort to make a limited amount of water do service on what is practically an unlimited amount of land. It means the passing of the promoter and ditch manipulator and the coming of the irrigator and business man. It means ultimately improved agricultural conditions, better transportation facilities and industries of every kind. Above all, it means homes and a living for a quarter of a million people.

The Nampa folio which describes the physiographic features of a part of this interesting region, may be obtained for twenty-five cents on application to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

## METALLIFEROUS MATRIMONY

About four years ago I had a 90-days option on as fine a body of Arizona woman as ever did the jigger act over a washboard or mucked out a dough pan. No better article ever emanated from the stope of virtuous felicity. At one time we had fully decided to close the deal, but before I could get a patent, the ground began to creep. For the first thirty days we drifted along in the rarest soft carbonates of human beatitude that ever went over the tram. The shade of green crept in, merging in to crystalized jealousy, and before I could timber up the misunderstanding, we had a small cave, and the stope was half full of the black oxide of discord. This stope had been worked not far from the breast of the drift, as we had found a fine bunch of the chlorides of perfect contentment at that point. After this little cave, we made up and proceeded on our way, but pretty soon the country became rather well sprinkled with the sulphides of mutual distrust.

All this time the original locator did not seem to relish the idea of taking me into partnership in the capacity of son-in-law, and he sided with a cowboy who had a lien on the proposition years before. The cowboy, doubtless at the old man's instigation, filed an adverse on my

application for patent. Notwithstanding all of this, I was able to obtain an extension on the option for ninety days. During the first thirty days thereafter, I sunk for the sulphides of reconciliation, I crossed, in the hope of striking a ledge of the old gold sentiment, but I ran into a conglomerate composed of perversity and disinclination, cemented with gossip; I drifted along in the hope of finding confidence.

Occasionally a thin streak of the tale of coquetry would creep in and boom my stocks to the hundred mark, but they soon fell with that "dull sickening thud" that characterizes a 400-pound bar of blister copper as they dump it into the loading pit at the old Copper Queen smelter. At last I raised, in the hopes of catching a body of the original surface carbonates of fond recollection at least, but ran into a gob of disaster, and congratulate myself that the syenite of suicide did not catch me as I slid to the bottom of the sump in despair.

As I climbed painfully up the ladder of defeat and humiliation, I was once more encouraged to live by getting into good air, untainted with the powder smoke of desperation, unchoked by the dust of distrust, and removed from all those forms of strife and disappointment which are encountered in the shafts, tunnels, drifts, stopes, winzes, raises, spurs, dips and angles of matrimony, and from all other forms of human misery with which that relation is gobbled up.

I evidently started out on the contact between gullibility and flirtation. I followed close the trend of susceptibility after the indications of common sense had angled off and naturally broke into an immense deposit of tough luck. She made a powder monkey of me all the way through. Now, I realize that I shall never have the pleasure of shoving a wicker work car along the trail of life full of the concentrates of croup and summer complaint.

Never shall the aroma of the golden pumpkin pie provide a silver lining for the cloud that hangs over my dismal shack. Never shall I cease to reflect upon the beauties of a sorting table loaded down with the prime attractions of domestic glory as I muck out my boarding house dinner bucket, with its same old dose that would cause an angel to weep or drive the devil to suicide. Never shall I be fired for failing to be at the collar at the appointed time, then hired back and paid off in caresses of forgiveness. I have pulled out of the field, the property has gone into the hands of that cowboy receiver. Since that, six new extensions have been added to the combination, and, after all, the oldest one was named for me.—Alley in Clifton Copper Age.

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