

# REPORT OF U. S. ON IRRIGATION IS FAVORABLE

(Continued from page one)

storage on Fish lake and Four-Mile lake, will furnish a supply sufficient for 35,000 acres in the Medford division, at an approximate construction cost of \$40 per acre, including distributing system; that an additional supply probably sufficient for 15,000 acres can be obtained from Big Butte creek at a cost of approximately \$29 per acre delivered to Hopkins lateral.

A portion of the flood water of Bear creek will be available for use on the Ashland division. In addition to Bear creek a supply probably sufficient for the entire division can be developed from the following sources:

It is estimated that Buck lake and Hyatt prairie reservoir will furnish 35,000 acre feet. Total estimated cost of project is approximately \$100 per acre.

It is probable that Beaver creek reservoir would furnish enough for the entire division. The total estimated cost of project is approximately \$73.50 per acre.

### Hyatt Prairie Project

A supply obtained from Hyatt Prairie reservoir, together with an intercepting canal from Toll Road gap west along south slope of Ashland butte may prove sufficient. Total estimated cost of project is \$67 per acre.

Hyatt Prairie reservoir and Beaver creek reservoir would probably furnish the most dependable supply, and it seems reasonable to expect that the supply would be sufficient for the entire division. Total estimated cost of project is approximately \$73.15 per acre.

Fish lake is the source of the north fork of Little Butte creek and lies near the summit of the Cascade range just south of Mt. McLoughlin. By constructing a 50-foot dam, a storage capacity of 20,000-acre feet can be obtained. The water supply available for storage here is uncertain, but will probably equal the storage capacity.

Four-Mile lake lies twelve miles northeast of Fish lake and at an elevation 1000 feet higher. Fifteen thousand five hundred acre feet storage capacity can be obtained by constructing a 20-foot dam. The record of run-off from this lake is very short, but it is probable that the yearly supply of 10,000 acre feet is all that can be depended upon.

### South Fork of Butte

The minimum flow of the South Fork of Big Butte creek in 1915 was 85 second feet. In years of average rainfall the supply would probably be sufficient for 15,000 acres. The estimated cost of constructing a canal of 150 second feet capacity from Big Butte creek across Little Butte to the Hopkins lateral is \$437,000.

Reconnaissance surveys show that it is feasible to divert South Fork of Rogue river into Big Butte creek. It is estimated that the average minimum flow may be 110 second feet, and that this can be delivered into North Fork of Big Butte creek at a cost of approximately \$94,000.

There is sufficient flood water in Bear creek to supply practically all the requirements for both divisions in April and May, and enough in any event to insure against crop failure.

Hyatt Prairie reservoir is feasible. A dam of 47 feet maximum height will flood 975 acres and create a storage capacity of 19,700 acre feet. The run-off data is very meager. However, it appears that an annual supply of 10,000 acre feet can probably be depended upon. The estimated cost of delivering this amount to Emigrant creek is \$152,000.

### Buck Lake and Beaver Creek

No record has been kept of the run-off of Buck lake, and only two discharge measurements are known to have been made. A measurement by Whiting on August 27, 1913, is reported as 60 second feet, and a float measurement on September 24, 1915, showing a discharge of 19 second feet. It is estimated that probably 25,000 acre feet can be delivered from Buck lake to Walker creek at a cost of \$950,000. A dam with maximum height of 23 feet will be required at Buck lake, creating a storage capacity of 30,000 acre feet. Approximately 23 miles of canal, 4.6 miles of tunnel and 1000 feet of siphon are required.

Beaver creek reservoir is apparently feasible. Practically nothing is known of the run-off of its drainage area. However, it appears probable that a supply could be developed here sufficient for the entire Ashland division. A dam of 75 feet maximum height would make a reservoir with a storage capacity of 46,000 acre feet, and one of 82 feet height a capacity of 30,000 acre feet. It is estimated that 25 miles of canal and a 3000-foot tunnel would be required to

carry the stored water to Emigrant creek.

### Streams From South

A reconnaissance survey from Toll Road Gap west along the south slope of Ashland Butte showed that it would probably be feasible to construct a canal intercepting the streams flowing to the south. The probable minimum flow of streams intercepted by 24 miles of canal is 23 second feet. It is estimated that a probable run-off of 21,000 acre feet could be collected and diverted into Bear creek drainage at a cost of \$270,000.

Although the reconnaissance survey showed that it probably is feasible to construct a canal from Wagner Creek gap along the north slope of Ashland Butte, the water thus diverted to be replaced by an intercepting canal from Siskiyou gap to California Bear creek, the amount obtained would not be sufficient to fully supplement other sources of supply. The water rights held by the Sterling ditch are greater than the low water flow of Little Applegate river.

### Conclusions of Report

It appears from the investigations and estimates for this report:

1. That the water supply which can be developed under the water rights of the Rogue River Valley Canal company will be sufficient for 35,000 acres.
2. That the system under construction for the Medford division by the Rogue River Valley Canal company is the most economical for the acreage which it can supply.
3. That it is feasible to divert Big Butte creek and irrigate land in the Medford division at a not unreasonable cost.
4. That there is sufficient flood water in Bear creek to supply practically all irrigation requirements in April and May, and enough to insure against a total failure of crops.
5. That a water supply can probably be developed either in the Siskiyou or Klamath mountains which will be sufficient for the full irrigation of the Ashland division.
6. That the construction cost of the Medford division will be approximately \$40 and of the Ashland division not to exceed \$75 per acre. But these estimated costs do not include depreciation, taxes or interest charges, and to obtain the actual cost to the water user it should be increased by an amount sufficient to cover such costs, whatever they may be.
7. That for the Ashland division the first development should be the utilization of the flood waters of Bear creek by immediate construction of laterals therefrom.
8. That Hyatt Prairie reservoir will be a source of water supply under what appear to be the most feasible schemes for the irrigation of the Ashland division, and its construction should follow the construction of the laterals from Bear creek.
9. That after Hyatt Prairie reservoir the next construction should be either Beaver creek reservoir and canal or Toll Road Gap canal, as will then be more apparent from stream gaugings to be made and the surveys contemplated.
10. That until more definite data regarding the run-off of the streams are available, it is impossible to determine with any certainty what is the best source of water supply for the Ashland division.

### Cost of Projects

6. That the construction cost of the Medford division will be approximately \$40 and of the Ashland division not to exceed \$75 per acre. But these estimated costs do not include depreciation, taxes or interest charges, and to obtain the actual cost to the water user it should be increased by an amount sufficient to cover such costs, whatever they may be.

7. That for the Ashland division the first development should be the utilization of the flood waters of Bear creek by immediate construction of laterals therefrom.

8. That Hyatt Prairie reservoir will be a source of water supply under what appear to be the most feasible schemes for the irrigation of the Ashland division, and its construction should follow the construction of the laterals from Bear creek.

9. That after Hyatt Prairie reservoir the next construction should be either Beaver creek reservoir and canal or Toll Road Gap canal, as will then be more apparent from stream gaugings to be made and the surveys contemplated.

10. That until more definite data regarding the run-off of the streams are available, it is impossible to determine with any certainty what is the best source of water supply for the Ashland division.

### Recommendations

It is recommended:

(a) That it be the policy of the United States and the state to consider the Rogue River valley project an immediate possibility.

(b) That in addition to the present gauging stations maintained by the U. S. geological survey, adequate and continuous discharge records be kept of Keene creek, Oregon Beaver creek, Big Butte creek and the streams cut by the intercepting canal west from Toll Road Gap to California Beaver Creek.

(c) That to guard the public interest the waters of all the streams withdrawn from appropriation by the state engineer for this project be continued withheld until such time as the most feasible source of water supply can be determined.

(d) That the people of the Medford division be encouraged to subscribe for water from the Rogue River Valley Canal company under mutually satisfactory terms, as their system necessarily forms an integral part of any comprehensive scheme for the entire valley.

(e) That some steps be immediately taken to construct laterals from Bear creek in the Ashland division, to be closely followed by the construction of Hyatt Prairies reservoir after at least another season's record of run-off has been obtained.

(f) That public lands be withdrawn by the United States for Hyatt Prairie and Beaver creek reservoirs.

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Jared How of San Francisco, representing the Equitable, began the opening argument and occupied the first hour and a half of the session in presenting the history of the receivership and subsequent legal action in the railroad's affairs. The issues before the court, said How, concerned controversies between the plaintiffs and the United States district court, and controversies between the plaintiffs and the receivers. All parties to the foreclosure suit, he declared, were agreed as to the advantages of an immediate sale of the road.

Judge W. C. Van Fleet of the United States district court, from whose decisions in the receivership proceedings the plaintiffs have appealed to the higher court, was represented by Garrett McEnerney. The receivers who oppose the immediate sale of the road were represented by Attorney John S. Partridge, John S. Drum, of the Savings Union Trust company of San Francisco, appeared for the intervenors with two other attorneys. With Jared How is associated E. S. Griswold of New York. Representing the reorganization committee are F. M. W. Catechon of New York and J. P. Bowie.

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