

Irrigation Changed Future Of Klamath Country

(Continued from Page 3-D)

where he struck his head and was killed instantly. Whitaker had come here with his wife and child from Orville, Calif., just a short time before the accident.

By Dec. 1 the Klamath Canal Company had about 2,700 feet of tunnel completed, but sentiment was rising for government ownership. A mass meeting, called on Dec. 1, added more impetus and support to the government plan.

Government Intervention
Dec. 22, promoters of the Klamath Canal Company attempted to halt the trend toward government intervention by offering land owners of the Klamath Basin and Poe Valley a ten-year option to purchase the company's irrigation system.

The struggle between the Canal company and the federal government raged through December and January. Government engineers maintained that they did not need the Canal Company's system for their operation. However, it became apparent that a big conflict did exist on water rights and canal right-of-way.

Feb. 9, 1905, the Klamath Republican announced that a

of swamp and meadow land at and discontent with the government handling of the project continued to mount. W. W. Patch, who had been in charge of the project since 1909 was asked to resign. James G. Camp was in charge until 1917. During Camp's stay on the project, the lateral system was extended to take in about all of the irrigable area of the Main

Division, drainage was commenced and the first enlargement of the G Canal was completed. During the administration of J. B. Bond, 1917 to 1919, plans were worked out for the development of the Tule Lake lands. A contract, signed Feb. 24, 1917, authorized the California Power Company to construct a regulating dam on Link River.

On Nov. 30, 1917, a contract was made between the government and the Klamath Drainage District for closing the gates on the channel under the Southern Pacific Railway tracks at Ady, for the purpose of drying up the Lower Klamath Lake.

Lake Dries Up
The lake surface receded 1.9 feet the first year and the drying up process was completed in 1922. This opened the way for the Klamath Drainage District to construct a system to irrigate 27,000 acres.

During the administration of Herbert Newell as engineer

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WORK AT THE DAM — Construction in the vicinity of Lost River Dam is shown here. Maney Brothers had the contract, and used three-horse wheeled scrapers. An automatic loading scraper needed only one man to load. C. T. Darley had charge of the East branch of the canal. Pictures from Klamath County Museum.

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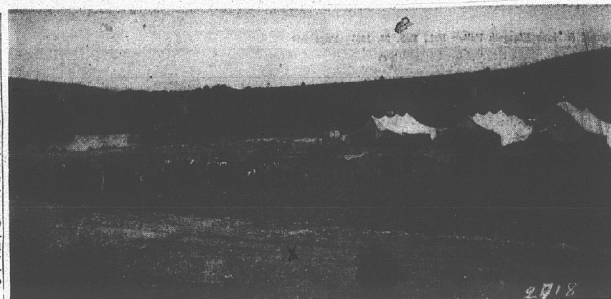
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CANAL CONSTRUCTION CAMP — This view shows the tents that housed the crews working on the digging of the irrigation canal about 1909. Four horse and six-horse teams were used in handling the scrapers to carve out the irrigation ditch.

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