

Page Discourses On Reclamation

Mr. John C. Page, commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, prepared an address which was delivered by Roy B. Williams, assistant commissioner, at the Western Regional Farm Bureau conference held at Old Faithful Inn, Yellowstone National Park, Thursday, June 25th.

The address shows wide study and complete knowledge of the origin and progress of the reclamation movement since its inception, and The Age is pleased to print the address, in part, below:

Last week, thirty-six years ago, a great social improvement and conservation program was launched by the Federal government.

On June 17, 1902, when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Federal Reclamation Act, high hopes were held that important and lasting benefits would be derived from the conservation of the arid soils and the scant waters of the West. It was hoped that new opportunities to gain an American standard of living could be made available to large numbers of people who might find homes on the reclaimed land; that the natural handicaps of these big western states could, in part, be overcome through the construction of soundly planned irrigation works with public funds on a self-liquidating basis; and that through building homes and communities the United States could be made a better and richer country.

Thirty-six years have passed. Let us look at the Federal reclamation program from this vantage point in time and ask ourselves: "Have events justified the expectations of 1902?"

Since the Bureau of Reclamation was organized within the Department of the Interior, 34 irrigation projects have been constructed to serve more than 3 million acres of land which recently were desert.

On the projects which have been put in operation, 900,000 people make their homes and find their livelihood on nearly 50,000 irrigated farms and in 257 towns and cities which serve and are dependent upon them. These people have built communities which support 859 public schools and 996 churches. Their banks at the close of the last year had a total of deposits of more than 225 millions of dollars.

These are normal American communities where men live and work; where they earn and achieve a measure of prosperity. These are the permanent improvements of reclamation. Before analyzing these results and attempting to determine their significance, let us see what the peculiar western conditions were which made this program necessary.

Here lay 700 millions of acres which were arid or semi-arid, or were mountainous wastes. Most of the slight water supply was received during the winter months and, with the coming of spring, it collected into a few streams and ran off, without benefit to mankind, to the sea. Only through the damming of streams, the storage of spring floods, and their distribution through canals could a little of the land be made productive and be made to support a considerable population.

As the receding frontier drew the American people westward, they came upon the arid and semi arid region, trapped its waters for fur; explored its mountains for metals;

and cut its forests, but they passed rapidly over its deserts. They crossed miles upon miles of arid land, hoping to find fresh fields; they pressed onward until they realized that it was upon the foundation of this desert that the permanent civilization in the West must be built. Then they began the easy stream diversions and irrigated the low-lying valleys and the beaches near the big rivers. Gradually the irrigation systems became more complicated. Finally the unregulated flow of the streams became insufficient to the needs of developments relying upon them, and storage works were required.

It was at about this point that the Government adopted its reclamation policy. Summarized, this policy was to invest funds received from eastern states in irrigation. These funds the sale of public lands in the west were not to be expended as gifts, but were to be placed in a revolving fund into which the settlers upon the lands reclaimed must repay the cost of the construction of their projects. It was a simple and business-like arrangement and, although the Reclamation Act has been amended, the principle remains unchanged.

Look at a map of the West now. The populous areas, the cities and the farms, are gathered together in spots where irrigation can be practiced, where water can be taken from the rivers or from the ground and applied to the arid land.

Of the 700 million acres in the West, 20 millions now are irrigated, and this small fraction forms the major support for 12 millions of people. Surveys show that some unused water remains available—sufficient in the estimation of the Bureau of Reclamation to irrigate, with projects which now can be considered feasible, an additional 10 millions of acres. Beyond the boundaries of those projects as yet un-built stretch the untracked desert and the short-grass plateaus, and above them rise the peaks of a maze of mountain ranges. Hundreds of millions of acres must forever remain uncultivated.

The growth of the West since the shaking down process which followed the gold rush to California has been keyed to its irrigation development. This relationship must be retained in the future. The Bureau of Reclamation has played an increasingly important part since 1902 in the widening of the agricultural base for this growing section. For 15 years it has been the principal agency in the field of irrigation construction. It is likely to remain such in the future because the remaining developments generally are large and costly, involving too many complications to attract private finances and being too difficult to be undertaken co-operatively by irrigation districts.

We are now engaged in the greatest construction program in the history of the Bureau of Reclamation. Projects under construction will, upon their completion, add an additional 2,500,000 acres to the watered area of these States. This construction program also will provide supplemental water for about as much more land now irrigated but with insufficient water to produce good crops. We look forward to public betterments to grow from these projects with a confidence based on the experience of the past.

When these projects are completed, opportunities will be provided, according to our estimates, for a total of 825,000 people on 41,600 farms and in cities and towns, as yet unlocated.

Want Attractive Summer Clothes? Cotton Designers Make it Simple



What will you wear this summer? There is a safe and smart answer: cottons. And the reason is not hard to find.

Never were they so attractive, never were they so reasonably priced and, furthermore, when one buys and wears cottons it is direct aid to the people of seventeen states to whom the cotton crop furnishes the principal money income, the Cotton-Textile Institute points out.

What could be pleasanter than to be patriotic and well-dressed at the same time?

Cottons, moreover, make it easy for one to keep spic-and-span all

through the hottest weather. It is easy to drop these attractive garments into the household washer, whisk them fresh and clean in a jiffy, have them ready for wear again after a few minutes' attention from the ironer.

Shown here are two good-looking outfits that can be copied or adapted by almost anyone. The pique beach ensemble has black for the bodice and black and white striped pique for the skirt and matching bathing suit. The belt is red cotton.

Chambray is a favorite fabric for sports. In the other smart costume illustrated gray chambray is used for the skirt and matching hat, with novelty stripes in pink, wine and gray for the shirt.

MINING MACHINERY FOR SALE

1. Portable Air Compressor, 160 cubic foot capacity, Chicago Pneumatic, little used.
1. Two Stage Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor, 500 cubic foot capacity.
1. 9x8 ERI Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor, 145 cubic foot capacity.
1. No. 3 Cameron Sinker Pump, capacity 28 gallons per minute.
3. Air Receivers.
2. Automatic No. 470 Cochise Stoper Drills.

W. STEWART THOMPSON
KINGMAN, ARIZONA