

The SPIRIT of the WEST

Wonderful Development Since Dawn of Irrigation

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The spirit of the west is optimism and progress. It is the spirit that fired the hearts of our forefathers who erected in the primeval forests of New England the superstructure of the greatest nation on earth. It is the optimism and faith which imbued their descendants who carved an agricultural em-
pire of unparalleled richness from the Mississippi valley.

Once a wilderness so unpromising that it evoked derision in the halls of congress, the west has become today the land of fortune and opportunity. In this land of boundless distances the altitude is stimulating, the air is a tonic, giving health to the infirm and courage to those who have failed elsewhere. Its constant sunshine encourages optimism and cheerfulness. The glories of its opal-tinted dawns, the indescribable beauty of its sunsets and the nameless witchery of its twilight softly melting into night are the work of a divine painter.

There is a mental and spiritual uplift in its mountains, whose summits are in regions of perpetual snow. Its sapphire lakes, ereciting in beauty those of Switzerland, open up a wondrous field of interest and pleasure to the sightseer and those in search of rest and recreation. The monarchs of its forests cast their shadows on the earth before the coming of the gentle Nazarene.

Its canons, sculptured during uncounted centuries by wind and wave, are unrivaled in their wonderful and varied coloring and in their awe-inspiring depths. Its deserts, in vastness of area, in potential wealth of soil and climate, and in rivers of constant supply, are sleeping empires awaiting exploitation and development. Here nature offers to every man his birthright—a wide sky, the sunshine, the wind, and a sure reward for intelligent effort. Here things are writ in characters too vast for human pen.

The late Gov. John A. Johnson well said the west symbolizes "homes for the homeless, food for the hungry, work for the unemployed, land for the landless, gold for the penniless, freedom for the enslaved, adventure for the restless, dangers for the brave, an unknown world to conquer, and room for all."

Irrigation has wrought its miracle and 13,000,000 acres reclaimed are annually producing harvests valued at more than \$250,000,000 and supporting in homes of their own more than 200,000 families. The wealth of that portion of the country which great statesmen in Webster's day were wont to declare worthless is greater now than that of the entire nation in 1850.

In the swift march of national events during the past decade, the development of the west has focused the attention of the world. It furnishes one of the most inspiring pages in the annals of our commonwealth. It is a story of progress and human achievement—a battle with nature in her sternest and most forbidding aspect.

Future writers will record the irrigation movement as an epoch in our history the far-reaching influence of which overshadowed in importance any other progressive movement since the opening of settlement of the Mississippi valley. The reclamation of vast areas of our arid and semi-arid regions, which is being promoted by the federal government and by large corporations working in conjunction with several states, is of profound economic importance to the nation.

The additional opportunities thus created for home makers are already serving to check the undesirable exodus of the country people to the cities. Millions of acres of desert, un-
teached by rain and storm in its bosom, the fertility gathered there by centuries of washings from hills and mountains, are being quickened by life-giving water.

Cities, populous and great, have sprung up; rural communities, attractive and prosperous, broad vistas of fertile fields and blossoming orchards whose fields are prolific beyond comparison, replace the wastes of sand and sage brush.

Economic forces are at work today in the country, and particularly in the arid west, which are gradually but surely shaping our agricultural development along new lines. In many parts of the irrigated country agriculture now occupies a position of greater dignity among the vocations than ever before. Its place among the scientific professions is now recognized and it is calling more strongly every day for the best talent and brains the nation affords.

Belong to Southern City

Institutions indigenous to New Orleans call forth criticism from stranger.

Sheridan Plouffe of Hutchinson recently returned from a trip to Panama, taken to see how Uncle Sam is building the big ditch. He stopped at New Orleans to have a look at the Mardi Gras.

They have two institutions in New Orleans that seem to be to the manner born, said Plouffe, the other day. "They think they have a monopoly on these. One is the French opera and the other is the Mardi Gras. They say that the opera is the leading feature of their social life. For over 90 years they have had this kind of music and I rather think now it is honored more for its age than for anything else. Some of our party went to the opera. Some stayed at home. Those who went congratulated those who stayed. When the opera had its highest run it was about all there was to New Orleans society. Not to be a subscriber, or at least not to be a regular attendant, was tantamount to being ignored by society, and to being looked upon as a person lacking in taste. It was a safe affair and on each Tuesday and Saturday night—full dress, head waiter clothes and white gloves for the men, and for the women all that New Orleans society would stand for. The display of undress was positively startling to a stranger. All of which reminds me of Jerry Simpson. He attended a swell social function in Washington, and his wife, who had not attended, asked Jerry when he got home how the women were dressed. The quick-witted Jerry replied: 'Well, my dear, I cannot tell you. I did not look under the table.'"

Whistlers, Not Singers. A young man and a young woman stood at the foot of the steps leading to the New York Metropolitan Art museum. They were evidently undecided whether it would be better to go in or stay outside in the sunshiny park.

"Let's go in," said the young man, at last, and to make the suggestion more forcible, he added, "Isn't there an exhibition of Singers going on in the museum now?"

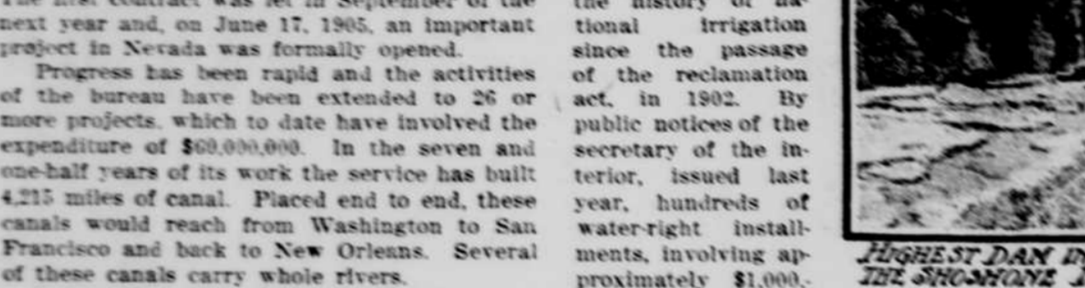
"Singers!" exclaimed the girl, round-eyed. "Oh, you mean Whistlers. Yes, let's go in."



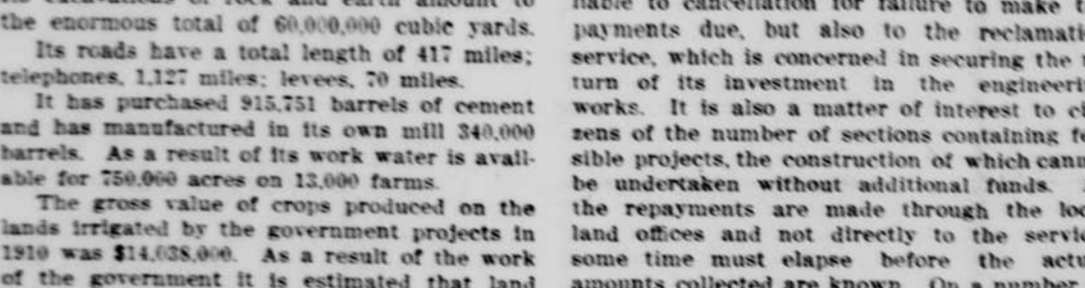
ALFALFA IS THE FARMER'S BANK ACCOUNT IN THE ARID COUNTRY



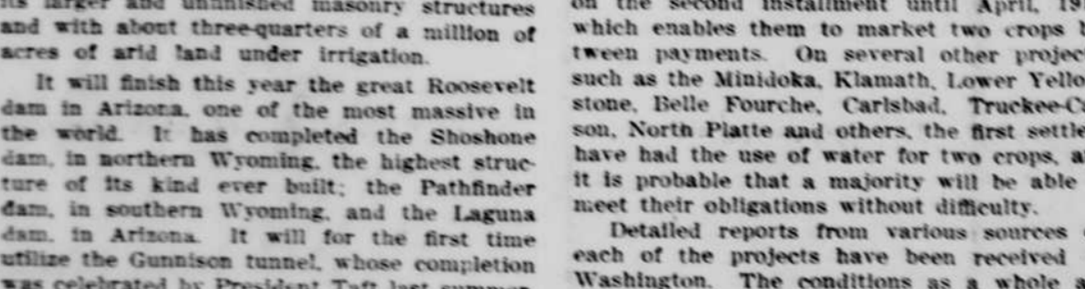
GREATEST PROJECT OF THE RECLAMATION SERVICE, RIO GRANDE VALLEY, NEW MEXICO



A FAMILIAR TYPE: THE OPTIMISTIC PROSPECTOR



HIGHEST DAM IN THE WORLD THE SHOSHONE DAM, WYOMING



LOOKING DOWN INTO TETON CANYON, YAKIMA PROJECT, WASHINGTON

The reclamation service began its work in 1902 on the passage of the reclamation act. The first contract was let in September of the next year and, on June 17, 1905, an important project in Nevada was formally opened.

Progress has been rapid and the activities of the bureau have been extended to 26 or more projects, which to date have involved the expenditure of \$60,000,000. In the seven and one-half years of its work the service has built 4,215 miles of canal. Placed end to end, these canals would reach from Washington to San Francisco and back to New Orleans. Several of these canals carry whole rivers.

It has excavated 17 miles of tunnels. Before the end of the year it will have completed four of the highest dams in the world. Its excavations of rock and earth amount to the enormous total of 60,000,000 cubic yards. Its roads have a total length of 417 miles; telephones, 1,127 miles; levees, 70 miles. It has purchased 915,751 barrels of cement and has manufactured in its own mill 348,000 barrels. As a result of its work water is available for 750,000 acres on 12,000 farms.

The gross value of crops produced on the lands irrigated by the government projects in 1910 was \$14,038,000. As a result of the work of the government it is estimated that land values have increased more than \$105,800,000. The reclamation service is entering 1910 with money and plans for completing most of its larger and unfinished masonry structures and with about three-quarters of a million of acres of arid land under irrigation.

It will finish this year the great Roosevelt dam in Arizona, one of the most massive in the world. It has completed the Shoshone dam, in northern Wyoming, the highest structure of its kind ever built; the Pathfinder dam, in southern Wyoming; and the Laguna dam, in Arizona. It will for the first time utilize the Gunnison tunnel, whose completion was celebrated by President Taft last summer.

The funds available for construction are somewhat less than in previous years, and the organization, which is very elastic, has been cut down to fit reduced expenditures. About fifty skilled men—engineers, experts and technical assistants—have either sought private employment, have been transferred to other bureaus of the government or put on furlough, in order to keep the overhead charges consistent with the expenditures.

ous sales, water rentals, etc., \$1,694,844.77, collections on water rights, \$814,145.34. This does not include any of the moneys collected for the water rights which were due and payable April 1, 1910.

Among the several large projects, one of especial interest is located in northern Wyoming. When the springtime showers and sunshine fall upon the snowy peaks of the lofty mountains on the eastern rim of Yellowstone park a thousand streams will rush downward to fill to brimming the swift-flowing Shoshone river. An important physical change will occur at that time. The flood that once, unchecked and uncontrolled, swept madly through the rock-walled gorge will beat itself to stillness against a massive wall of concrete with which man has blocked the canon. A beautiful lake, 100 feet deep and covering ten square miles, will appear.

In this wonderful gash in the mountains, with perpendicular walls a thousand feet high, the government has erected the highest dam in the world. It is a wedge of concrete 328 feet from base to top. Its height can only be appreciated when compared with that of some well-known structure. New York's famous Flatiron building would not reach within 47 feet of the top of the dam, and the tip-top of the dome of the United States capitol would fall short 21 feet of the parapet.

In the summer, when the crops are thirsty, the big gates will be opened and the pent-up floods will be released into the river below.

Another dam, a low structure of concrete, will divert the waters through a tunnel 34 miles long into a canal which for 40 miles passes along the upper edge of a broad and fertile valley containing 150,000 acres.

Two years ago it was a desolate waste. Today it contains more than 200 farm houses and three thriving towns. Ten thousand acres produced crops last year on this project. With 16 farm houses along each mile of the main highways, the valley already has a suburban appearance.

More than 250 farm units of 40 to 80 acres are now available to entry and offer exceptional opportunities for men of moderate means to secure homes in a prosperous and growing country.

Close to the Black Hills, in South Dakota, lies the beautiful valley of Belle Fourche, containing 100,000 acres of grass-covered prairie. Many miles of canals have been laid across its level surface, and what was only a short time ago the finest free cattle range in this country is rapidly becoming a compactly settled agricultural community.

An impressive engineering feature of this project is the Owl Creek dam, one of the longest and highest earthen embankments in the world. This structure, now nearing completion, is 6,200 feet long, has a maximum height of 115 feet and contains 1,600,000 cubic yards of material.

The Roosevelt dam, which is about completed as you read the story today, is in many respects the most remarkable structure of its kind in the world. Its towering height, 280 feet, its length on top, 1,080 feet, the inspiring scenery in which it is located and the enormous capacity of the reservoir created by it combine to make it one of the most stupendous engineering works of modern times.

Conceive, if you can, two valleys—one 12 miles, the other 15 miles in length, and each from one to three miles wide—transformed into a lake 200 feet deep in places and containing enough water to cover Delaware a foot deep.

The Salt River reservoir, when full, has a capacity sufficient to fill a canal 300 feet wide and 18 feet deep extending from Chicago to San Francisco.

My one regret is that the space allotted me is too little to permit me to describe the charms and advantages of other projects of the government. I should like to tell you of the opportunities on the Klamath project, located in southern Oregon, in a region of unrivaled scenic beauty; of the wonderful progress made in the Boise valley, in Idaho, and the promise of even greater advance as the work of the government nears completion; of the Orland project, in the Sacramento valley, the land of fruits and flowers; of the Rio Grande valley, where there will one day be erected the most stupendous dam in the west—a region in which irrigation began before the Spanish invasion, which will become fruitful and prosperous.

The beacon of hope shines brightly in the west. It beckons the landless man to the manless land.

Not only the settlers, whose entries are liable to cancellation for failure to make the payments due, but also to the reclamation service, which is concerned in securing the return of its investment in the engineering works. It is also a matter of interest to citizens of the number of sections containing feasible projects, the construction of which cannot be undertaken without additional funds. As the repayments are made through the local land offices and not directly to the service, some time must elapse before the actual amounts collected are known. On a number of the projects, like Sun River, Shoshone and Huntley, the settlers have already made their initial payments and will not be delinquent on the second installment until April, 1911, which enables them to market two crops between payments. On several other projects, such as the Minidoka, Klamath, Lower Yellowstone, Belle Fourche, Carlisbad, Truckee-Carson, North Platte and others, the first settlers have had the use of water for two crops, and it is probable that a majority will be able to meet their obligations without difficulty.

Detailed reports from various sources on each of the projects have been received at Washington. The conditions as a whole are described as favorable for a large return to the reclamation fund. On several of the projects there will be no delinquents. On a number of projects the engineering work is not fully completed, but water is ready for large areas and is being supplied on a rental basis pending the announcement of the actual cost of water right. The reclamation service has derived considerable revenue from these sources and at the same time the farmers have been enabled to increase the areas in cultivation. The following financial statement is interesting as showing the status of the reclamation fund and the amounts which thus far have been credited to it through the operations of the reclamation service:

Total moneys received and transferred to the reclamation fund from sales of public lands under reclamation act to February 28, 1910, \$58,342,617.02. Approximately \$4,500,000 are still in the treasury of the United States, but not yet available.

Moneys received under operations of reclamation act from all sources in cash and credits, for work done, \$2,379,475.04, divided as follows: Town-plot sales, \$103,672.91; miscellaneous

AN IN THE LIMELIGHT

VAN VALKENBURG IS JUDGE



Judge Arba S. Van Valkenburgh, recently appointed United States district judge, western division of Missouri, is one of the youngest jurists on the federal bench. He is only 48 years of age, but his friends say this will not prevent him from making an enviable record.

Mr. Van Valkenburgh succeeded Senator Warner as United States district attorney for the western district of Missouri in 1905 and was re-appointed by President Taft in December, 1909. He had previously served seven years as assistant to Major Warner in that office. He was born in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1862. When he was seven years old his parents removed to Illinois and later to Michigan. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1884, attaining high rank as a scholar.

Mr. Van Valkenburgh went to Kansas City in 1885 and entered the law offices of Dobson, Douglas and Trimble, being admitted to the Jackson county bar in 1888. The same year he formed a law partnership with D. J. Hafl. He was married in 1889 to Miss Grace Ingold of Kansas City.

Mr. Van Valkenburgh was appointed assistant district attorney by Major Warner in 1898, succeeding William Draffen. Upon Major Warner's election to the senate in 1905 President Roosevelt appointed him to the place he since has held.

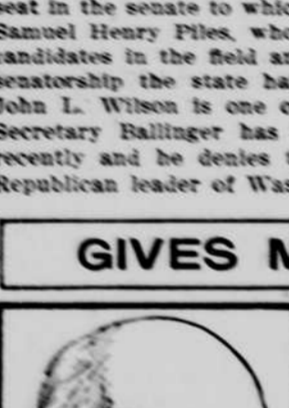
Law came naturally to Mr. Van Valkenburgh. His father, Lawrence Van Valkenburgh, was a justice of the peace back in New York in the early 60's.

Friends of the newly appointed judge say that at the department of justice in Washington Mr. Van Valkenburgh was considered as ranking among the ablest United States district attorneys in the country.

As United States district attorney, Mr. Van Valkenburgh first attracted national attention in the prosecution of all the packing companies to compel them to comply with the interstate commerce laws regarding the shipment of meats for export. He brought the suit in this jurisdiction and won it before Judge McPherson, sitting for Judge Phillips.

The winning of this suit brought Mr. Van Valkenburgh into the lime light before all the big attorneys of the country and he was highly complimented for the record he made. He earned recognition for hard work and unusually high legal ability. He had an honorably conspicuous part in that great movement for the "square deal" whose beginning distinguished the Roosevelt administration.

POINDEXTER IN LIMELIGHT



Representative Miles Poindexter of Washington, candidate for the United States senate, whose cause has been espoused by Theodore Roosevelt, was born in Memphis, Tenn., fifty-two years ago and has lived in Washington nineteen years. He has served only one term in congress and has been identified with the "insurgents," which makes the action of Colonel Roosevelt all the more important to national politics.

Mr. Poindexter has been a political foe of Richard A. Ballinger, secretary of the interior in the Taft cabinet, with whom Gifford Pinchot, former chief forester and friend of Roosevelt, had a feud for some time.

The Washington congressman visited Colonel Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill a few days ago and came away in jubilant spirits. Roosevelt had promised to aid him in his fight for the senate and he had a right to feel happy, for help from Roosevelt means help of the right kind and Poindexter needed it.

Mr. Poindexter was educated at Fancy Hill academy, Rockbridge county, Va., and at Washington and Lee university, Lexington, Va., in both the academic and law courses. He located at Wallawalla, Wash., in 1891 and began the practice of law. He was elected prosecuting attorney of Wallawalla county in 1892 and in 1897 moved to Spokane. He was assistant prosecuting attorney for Spokane six years and in 1904 was elected judge of the superior court and remained on the bench until nominated for congress in the newly created third district of Washington. He was elected by a majority of 13,000.

When Secretary Ballinger learned that Colonel Roosevelt had promised to lend his influence to the Poindexter cause he expressed the belief that the former president had been misled as to the situation in Washington. The seat in the senate to which Representative Poindexter aspires is now held by Samuel Henry Piles, who is not in the race for re-election. There are six candidates in the field and Washington is expecting the hardest fight for a senatorship the state has ever witnessed. Former United States Senator John L. Wilson is one of the candidates and he is quoted as saying that Secretary Ballinger has not meddled in the political affairs of the state recently and he denies the statement that the Taft cabinet officer is the Republican leader of Washington.

GIVES MILLIONS FOR BOYS



David J. Ranken, Jr., one of the wealthiest men of St. Louis, has acted literally upon that much-advertised saying of Andrew Carnegie, that "the who dies rich dies disgraced," and has turned over his entire fortune, estimated at a little more than \$5,000,000, to the David J. Ranken, Jr. School of Mechanical Trades, which he founded, reserving only \$5,000 a year for his own modest uses.

The school was established a year ago with an endowment of \$500,000, its purpose being to give boys over fifteen years old a trade education for a nominal sum. The school has prospered and to amplify its usefulness the additional endowment by Mr. Ranken has been made.

Mr. Ranken, who was born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1853, and who has been a resident of St. Louis since 1882, made his money in real estate and stock transactions. The students at the Ranken school are charged only \$50 a year, payable in three installments, and are given a two-year course. All their education is of a practical kind.

Ranken occupies three small rooms over a grocery. When he enters the door and climbs to his rooms he shuts out the world and declines to be seen. Here he has lived for years and worked out the plans and ambition of his life—the founding of the trades school where poor boys can receive a trade education for a nominal fee.

Mr. Ranken visits his school every day and watches the boys at work. He wastes no time in teaching theory in the lecture rooms unless it has some practical application in the shop work. Geometry is taught, but instead of having the boys compute the columns of a cone, they are taught the holding capacity of a funnel of like dimensions. Classroom work in all branches of drawing, carpentry, bricklaying, painting and steam engineering is along similar practical lines.

Mr. Ranken is known as a hard man with whom to drive a bargain, but a philanthropist who spends great sums to carry out his plans. The founder of the Ranken trades school is extremely plain in his habits and dress. One would not think he was entering the office of a millionaire on stepping into Ranken's office. He maintains no suite of carpeted rooms—only a single room and the smallest one on the floor.

ASTOUNDS CHOATE'S FRIENDS

Not only the judges and lawyers of the country but all citizens who follow the affairs of the nation were astounded when charges of unprofessional conduct were made against Joseph H. Choate, former ambassador from the United States to Great Britain.

The American Bar association, of which Mr. Choate is former president, will thoroughly probe the charges at its convention in Chattanooga, Tenn., next month and Mr. Choate's friends say there is no doubt that the verdict will completely exonerate him from all blame.

James T. Watts of Staten Island is Mr. Choate's accuser. He alleges that Mr. Choate caused him to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars through "omissions and wrongful acts" while acting as his attorney. Mr. Choate lost no time in demanding a thorough probe of the charges, the first ever made against him in his long and honored career.

Mr. Choate is 78 years old and internationally famous as a lawyer, diplomat, orator and after-dinner speaker. He was ambassador to the court of St. James from 1899 to 1905. His legal career began in 1855, when he was graduated as master of arts at Harvard, and admitted to the bar of Massachusetts. He went to New York in 1856 and with the exception of the time he served as ambassador has been practicing his profession there. He has been connected with many famous cases and was elected a bencher of the Inner Temple, England, in 1905, an honor conferred only on persons of distinction.

Mr. Choate's many friends say the charges against him are due to some mistake and is confident that the American Bar association will so determine.