

POSSIBILITIES OF IRRIGATION

(Continued from page 1.)

may be gleaned from the following from Secretary Dobson:

"At a very conservative estimate, this land, if used for general farming, raising alfalfa, corn, oats, wheat, etc., will produce \$10 per acre per annum above what could be produced on the same land without irrigation. This would add over \$15,000,000 annually to the products of the state, and it must be remembered that a large part of the irrigated land in this state is surrounded by an immense grazing country and the production of hay and feed on the irrigated land adds to the value of every acre of grazing land in its vicinity by rendering it possible to carry the stock through the winter season without the loss that is sure to be incurred where no provision is made for winter feed. This value of products raised annually can be multiplied several times by intensive farming and making the best use of the land and water."

practically valueless in watering her plains. Whether or not the conservative eastern representatives and senators can be diverted so far from their own immediate environment as to vote for a measure that must appropriate millions of dollars for something they know practically nothing about, is amazingly uncertain.

One of the chief aims of western representatives is to secure appropriations for the creation and maintenance of giant reservoirs which shall catch and hold great quantities of water during the wet seasons to be gradually disseminated during drier periods. The national treasury has been drawn on for millions of dollars in years past to erect dikes and levees to protect land along the banks of rivers from inundation at the time of floods. Should this same money be expended for storage reservoirs along the source of the stream, the overcharge of water could be caught and held, protecting residents from overflows and turning what was an evil into a positive good by

Thousands That Go . . .
Up in Smoke

Fancy the smoke of all the cigars consumed every day in Lincoln concentrated in one volume and the glow of all the cigars at the base of it all!

Place the vision in the center of the city and see the mad rush of firemen and the trailing ranks of the curious multitude! That is just what would happen were it possible for this concentration to be brought about for there are burned in round numbers, 12,000 cigars a day in Lincoln and this is no exaggeration. If anything it is conservative. Say there are twelve thousand men and boys of the smoking age in the city. Surely half the number love their cigars, at least once a day, in most cases twice and in many, from half a dozen to fifteen or twenty. If that does not average 12,000 a day, mark it a very poor guess.

3,142,000 cigars a year, excluding the hotels, drug stores, restaurants and groceries. Figuring this down to days the result is 8,608 for every day in the year. Adding to this the approximated sales of the foregoing places it does not appear to be a bad guess that 12,000 cigars daily find suction in the faces of the smoking element.

Think of paying duties on tobacco that more than equal its original price! That accounts largely for the expense. On some grades more is paid per pound for entry into the United States than is paid for the tobacco itself. It depends on the texture of the goods. Sumatra tobacco, for instance, is a very fine article, silky and fearfully expensive. A bale, about two by one by four feet in dimensions will not pass the customs officer without the payment of over \$350 by the importer and this in addition to the price paid the producer.

For the best all around cigar tobacco look to Havana. That's where the makers focus their optics. The Porto Rico weed is truly a weed. Near as that island is to Cuba it is a very poor, coarse article that springs from its soil. There is something in the sun and ground that makes good tobacco leaf and that is where Cuba shines. American grown tobacco is not very popular though there is a continual enlargement in its culture, the use of hot houses coming widely into favor of late. Aroma and tradition, however, stand in favor of the Havana growth and doubtless always will.

Expressions of wonder are very frequently heard by the non-smokers who would like to know why it is that some users of the weed prefer dark colored cigars and others light colored. It does not always make much difference. The dark colored wrapper is stronger in taste than its octroon brother but the filling is the same in both. The difference therefore is but slight, so far as color is concerned, and the choice resolves itself to a question of taste in appearance. It is little else than caprice or habit on the part of the smoker. The difference in cost of a cigar depends not only on the grade of leaf used but also in its style of construction. A hand made cigar always costs more than one made by machinery and it can always be told by the round corner on it. The machine made article possesses a telltale square corner. It is a rare five cent cigar that is made by hand. When a cigar draws poorly it is safe to say it was put together by machinery.

Some of the dealers, those who cater to the more transient trade, sell four times as many five cent cigars as ten centers. When the war tariff was placed on cigars it had the effect of turning a great part of the five cent trade to ten cent cigars. How the dealers explained it was only by the fact that the people suspected there would be even less than the customary care in the preparation of the cheap grades. But whereas some dealers have a better five than ten cent trade, with others it is exactly the reverse.

Wages of cigar makers are not so bad. They are paid from twelve to eighteen dollars a week after they have served their apprenticeship, the size of the wad depending on the number they are able to roll out in that length of time. It is a very scarce American, however, who can roll cigars as the Cubans do. Native to the art, some of these men in New York and other places make as high as \$150 a month and sport about with all the airs of aristocracy. A strange thing is noted of late years by tobacco dealers. It is that whereas the aristocracy is turning more to cigarettes the sporting element that once so generally smoked them is going more and more after the ten center.

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His Objections

"Was your interview with that young candidate satisfactory?"

"Not at all," answered the practical politician.

"Couldn't you arrange a deal?"

"Yes; a deal's just what he wants. He objects to my holding all the cards in my own hand."—Washington Star.



Pumping Water for Irrigation.—John H. Kersenbrock's Plant on Blue River in Seward County.

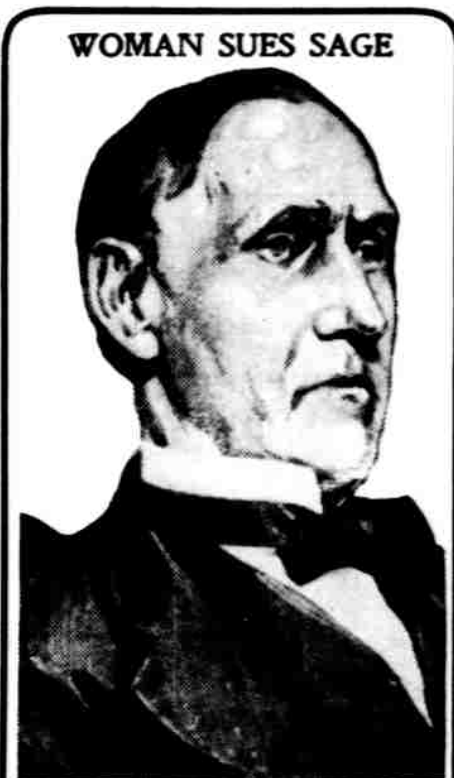
With the agitation that has struck the national capital concerning irrigation in the west, and the unanimity of western congressmen and senators in support of some measure looking forward toward national aid, and perhaps national control, there has grown up an added interest in the possibilities of irrigation throughout Nebraska. The chief question agitating congress is whether the national government or the respective states shall have control. So far as Nebraska is concerned, under a decision rendered by the supreme court, which stands unmodified up to date, there is strong reason for hoping that the nation will assume control and not delegate the power to the states.

In Nebraska the old common law on riparian rights has been held operative. It decrees that the owner of land adjacent to a stream has the right to the use of the water running in it, "undiluted, unpolluted and undiminished in quantity." This permits the use of water by the man up the stream for no other than the ordinary purposes of life, if the fellow below objects. A mill owner can therefore stop a man above him from diverting any quantity of water for irrigation of barren acres. If the nation takes a hand, the federal law will be supreme and this doctrine modified to meet the demands of the situation.

Another reason for national supervision is found in the control of streams that flow through more than one state, as for example, the Platte. Wyoming, under state supervision, might so drain the stream before it reaches Nebraska that it would be

letting out this same captive water at later and drier seasons when it might be needed.

Nebraska has already accomplished much through individual effort. Much more can be accomplished through the same medium. The general results can be multiplied almost to infinity by national aid.



WOMAN SUES SAGE

Russell Sage, the famous financier, is now playing the role of defendant in a suit for \$75,000 brought against him by the Marchioness D' Ajuria, a miniature painter of note. The complaint is based upon the millionaire's alleged misconduct towards her eighteen years ago.

But the guess may be supplemented by a few figures that are fairly reliable. In fact it was these which led to the guess. In the city there are five purely wholesale dealers in cigars and tobacco; there are ten firms which manufacture cigars and sell them both at wholesale and retail, besides twenty dealers in cigars, tobacco and news. These handle, along with much of this product, as much more and in some cases a good deal more of the imported product. This is saying nothing of the innumerable groceries, drug stores, hotels and restaurants that deal in cigars, the figures for whose sales are practically impossible of accumulation and compilation.

Four of the ten cigar makers average a product of 250,000 cigars a year, besides handling 500,000 imported cigars in the same time. For these four then a record of 3,000,000 a year may be jotted down. A third of this is disposed of out of town, leaving 2,000,000 for the city. The seven remaining makers are largely small concerns, many of them being men of families who make cigars in the back rooms of their mansions, seldom employing more than their own deft fingers though some have the help of another man. The average of their product is 20,000 cigars a month. That makes 360,000 a year. Adding this to the two millions made by the larger factories makes the total for a year 2,360,000. Three of the principal cigar stores make weekly sales approximating 5,000. This is 680,000 a year. Figuring the other seventeen at 1,000 a week their total is the sum of 884,000 a year. Halving this to avoid counting twice on local product we have altogether