

# 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 empire 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 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, exclaiming in beauty those of Switzerland, open up a wonderful 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 canyons, 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 awaiting only the exploitation and development. Here nature offers to every man his bright light—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 "hopes 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 its miracle."

Irrigation has wrought its miracle and 13,000,000 acres reclaimed are annually producing crops 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 1860.

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 battle with nature and human achievement—a story with progress 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 to 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 city. Millions of acres of desert, untraced by rain and storing 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 yields are prolific beyond comparison, replace the wastes of sand and sage brush.

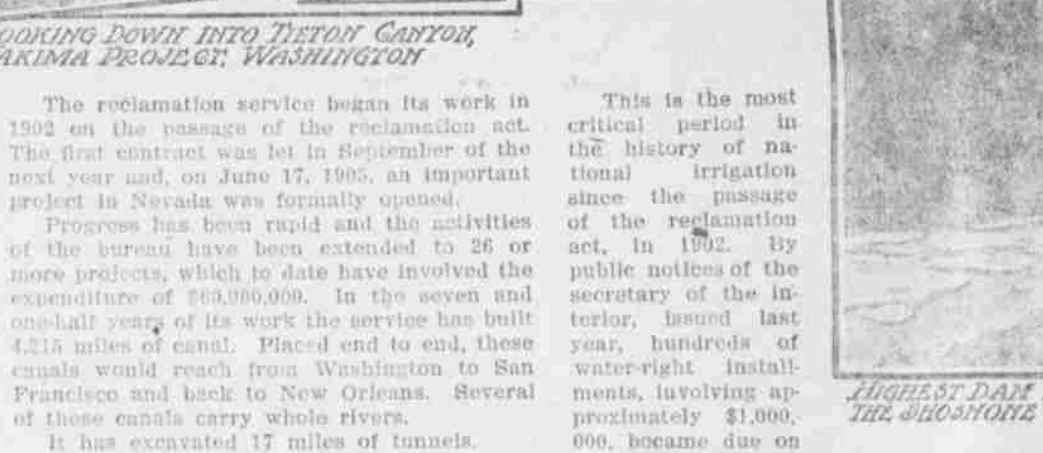
Economic forces are at work today in the country, and particularly in the arid west, which are gradually but surely shaping our agricultural development along new lines. In many parts of the irrigated country agriculture now occupies a position of greater dignity among the vocations than ever before. 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.



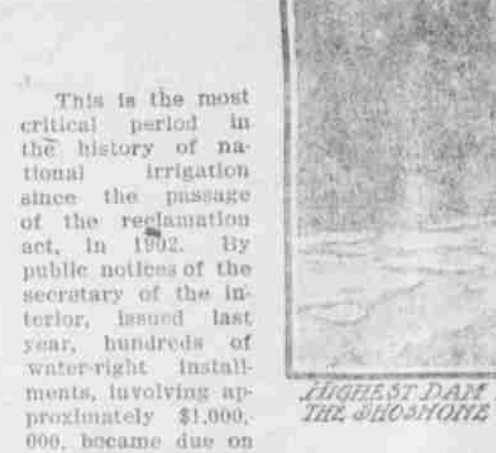
ALFALFA IS THE FARMER'S BANK ACCOUNT IN THE ARID COUNTRY



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



LOOKING DOWN INTO TETON CANYON, YAKIMA PROJECT, WASHINGTON



HIGHEST DAM IN THE WORLD, THE SHOSHONE DAM, WYOMING

The reclamation service began its work in 1902 on the basis 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 \$69,900,000. In the seven and one-half years of its work the service has built 4,218 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.

This is the most critical period in the history of national irrigation since the passage of the reclamation act, in 1902. By public notices of the secretary of the interior, issued last year, hundreds of water-right installments, involving approximately \$1,000,000, became due on April 1, 1910. That date is a memorable one, not only to 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, Clarabed, 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.

Total moneys received and transferred to the reclamation fund, on 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, \$103,673.91; miscellaneous...

ous sals, 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 gorges 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 238 feet from base to top. Its height can only be appreciated when compared with that of some well-known structures. 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 plenty, 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 3 1/2 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 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 lighted-up urban appearance.

More than 250 farm units of 40 to 50 acres each are now available to entry and offer exceptional opportunities for a man 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.

## CORNER FOR THE JUNIORS

### AMUSING MEMORY CARD GAME

Played With Two Packs of Past-boards, With Cards to Each Player—Must Remember Prophecies.

This is a memory game and very amusing. It is played with two packs of cards of any sort, but they must be exactly alike. One pack is laid in a heap, face down, in the middle of the table. The other pack is distributed to the players, who lay them, face upward, in rows. Each player should have not more than 12 cards, as it is hard to remember more than that.

Any one can begin by giving either a prophecy or a characteristic—thus: "Who will inherit a fortune inside of a year?" or "Who will be the first in the room to wear false teeth?" at the same time turning up a card from the center pile.

### BLACKSMITH WAS HONEST ONE

Would Not Take Advantage of Farmer Wha had Figured Inaccurately—How He Did It.

A farmer took five pieces of chain of three links each to a blacksmith. Pieces to be welded. He inquired the cost of welding them into one chain. The blacksmith remarked: "I charge five cents to cut a link and five cents to weld a link."

### AIRSHIPS BOOM KITE TRADE

In France Makers of Toys Are Prospering—Clever With Bamboo Frames of Tight Silk.

"We are not taking the interest in flight that we should," said an aviator. "France, where the Wrights are established, to our shame, leads the world in aeronautics, and in consequence the French kite business has grown like an ill weed."

### HIS GAME.

There's a wonderful funny game I play, And you may if you wish; I'm the One and Only Original Great Monster Bathing Fish!

Once the proud duke of Somerset employed the eminent artist of his day, Seymour, to paint a room at his country seat in Sussex. Having invited the artist to his table, he one day drank to him, saying:

"Cousin Seymour, your health." The painter replied: "My lord, I really believe that I have the honor of being of your grace's family."

"This hurt the pride of the duke so much that he rose from the table and ordered his steward to pay Seymour and dismiss him. Finding, however, that no one in England could complete the picture begun, he condescended to send for his cousin.

He was Willing. As a very small boy, to whom cake was an unknown quantity, was permitted to have as a special favor a crumb of his great-aunt's famous old-fashioned fruit cake.

## NICE LITTLE GIRL



"I hate a nice new frock; I'd rather not be clean; I want to play some more; I think it's awful mean."

### SOME SLIPS OF SCHOOLBOYS

"Howlers" Which invariably Raise a Hearty Laugh and Contain Some Unconscious Humor. The schoolboy "howler" is always popular. The following selections from a large number which were sent in for a prize competition arranged by the "University Correspondent," are excellent examples of the mistakes which pupils perpetrate:

Women's suffrage is the state of suffering to which they were born. The earth is an obsolete spheroid. Lord Raleigh was the first man to see the Invisible Armada.

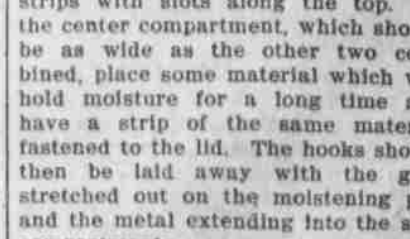
Shakespeare founded "As You Like It" on a book previously written by Sir Oliver Lodge. "Tennyson wrote 'In Memorandum.' King Edward IV. had no claim by geological right to the English throne. George Elliot left a wife and children to mourn his loss.

The capital of Russia is St. Petersburg on the Duma. The test act of 1673 was passed to keep Roman Catholics out of public houses. Henry I. died of eating puffries. Louis XVI. was galvanized during the French revolution.

The Rhine is boarded by wooden mountains. Gender shows whether a man is masculine, feminine or neuter. James I. died from anger. An angle is a triangle with only two sides. Geometry teaches us how to bisect angles.

### USEFUL BOX FOR FISHHOOKS

So Simple in Construction That Any One Can Put One Together—Keep Lines in Condition. Every fisherman knows how annoying it is to find the gut lines of his fishhooks dried into all sorts of angles, as happens when they are wrapped wet around a piece of card or board. To prevent this a New Jersey man has invented a case for the hooks which not only keeps the guts moist, but keeps each hook separate, and the desired one may quickly be selected without having to untangle it from the rest.



Each Hook Kept Separate. rest. This hook box is so simple in construction that any angler may make one for himself. Take an ordinary tin tobacco box, preferably a flat one, and divide it into three compartments by inserting two wooden strips with slots along the top. In the center compartment, which should be as wide as the other two combined, place some material which will hold moisture for a long time and have a strip of the same material fastened to the lid. The hooks should then be laid away with the guts stretched out on the moistening pad and the metal extending into the side compartments.

## IN THE ANTE-BELLUM DAYS

### Supply of Ready Money a Matter of Indifference to Rich and Poor Alike.

According to George Cary Eggleston, Virginians of ante-bellum days showed great indifference in money matters. Money in the form of coin was rarely seen; the planters were in the habit of writing checks on a slip of foolscap, instructing the bank to

"please" pay the amount specified. Eggleston says: "This custom of paying by check so strongly impressed itself to a certain unworldly parson of my time that he resorted to it on one occasion in the entire ignorance and innocence of the necessity of having a bank deposit as a preliminary to the drawing of checks. He went to Richmond and bought a year's supplies for his little place—it was too small to be

called a plantation—and for each purchase he drew a particularly polite check. When the banks threw these out on the ground that their parson had no account the poor old parson found the situation a difficult one to understand. He had thought that the very purpose of a bank's being was to cash checks for persons who happened to be short of money. 'Why, if I had the money in the bank,' he explained, 'I shouldn't have written the checks at all; I should have got the money and paid the bills.' Fortunately

the matter came to the knowledge of a well-to-do and generous planter who knew Parson J., and who happened to be in Richmond at the time. His endorsement made the checks good and saved the unworried old parson a deal of trouble."

Bride and Groom. He carries two new grips and two umbrellas. He offers her his arm. She carries her but a box of candy, and invariably wears a small hat, a veil, and a corsage bouquet. He's clean shaven, and wears, besides immaculate linen, a careworn, worried expression. He pulls out his watch, presumably to see how much of the honeymoon is left. When he registers at the hotel the "and wife" is written twice as large as his own name. She never fails to ask how many lumps of sugar he takes in his coffee.—Judge.