

Progress of Western Development

PECOS VALLEY DEVELOPMENT

Water Supply from Artesian Wells is Least of Troubles.

SOIL IS OF RICH, SANDY LOAM

Roswell Country, Being in Close Proximity to Texas, is Assured of an Unlimited Market for Apples.

ROSWELL, N. M., June 16.—(Special.)—In the Pecos valley of New Mexico the great possibilities are just beginning to be appreciated. The wonderful artesian wells which made irrigation so simple in the earlier years of the valley's history kept the people from seeing the greater possibilities. Now that the higher lands are being developed by pumping the country around, Roswell is taking on activity which it never before has known.

The Pecos valley varies in width from six to ten miles and is about fifty miles long. The water supply is all from an artesian flow, which is fed by underground streams which come from the mountains to the west. The supply is replenished each year by the melting snows and rains in the mountains and the water supply is at least of the valley's troubles.

The climate is ideal. The altitude of Roswell is 3,900 feet. The annual rainfall is about fifteen inches, coming in the summer when most needed for the growing crops. The winters are dry, and the temperature seldom goes below 30 degrees above zero. The summers, while not so hot as those of the south, are not unpleasant. Although the thermometer sometimes registers as high as 100, the lack of humidity makes the shade very pleasant on the hottest day. The nights are always cool enough for blankets, even following the hottest days.

The Roswell country is about the southern limit, where good apples can be grown. Texas has never been able to grow good apples to any extent, but the Pecos valley in the vicinity of Roswell is wonderfully adapted to fruit culture. The fact that it lies close to Texas places a wonderful market right at the door of the Roswell apple country and makes fruit culture very profitable, the orchardists realizing a net profit of from \$300 to \$500 an acre a year off of their crops.

The soil is a rich sandy loam, which, while admirably suited to growing good healthy fruit trees, is also well adapted to almost every crop. Alfalfa makes big yields here, growing as high as seven tons on the five and six cuttings which are obtained each year. Celery, strawberries and other small fruits and vegetables produce wonderful crops, and delicious favors. Cantaloupes are said to equal if not surpass the famous products which come from the Rocky Ford country of Colorado.

The development now is principally on the higher lands where the land is above the flow line of the artesian water. This artesian water is being lifted now, and thousands of acres of what has heretofore been barren land, because of lack of water, is now being reclaimed and turned into a garden spot. This higher land is best for orchards and the future for these sections is brighter than would be indicated by the already brilliant records of the lower land. Big projects are being financed, experienced agriculturists are being brought in from other states and irrigated sections, and the country is taking on new life.

As an example of this development the 13,000-acre tract which lies at the northern limit of the city of Roswell might be cited. Here the pumping is being done by electricity, a new plant being erected for that purpose. Something like forty miles of

transmission or trolley lines have been constructed. Some sixteen wells have been put down, and more are being started. About forty miles of road have been built and twelve miles of shade trees have been planted.

Development has been started on about 3,000 acres of this tract. Between three and four hundred acres of this has been put into apple orchards, and the remainder is being put into corn, oats, alfalfa, beans, melons and various other crops until fall when the greater part of it will go in orchard.

The land is divided into small tracts of from ten to forty acres, and these are being taken up rapidly by farmers and men from the cities of the middle western and eastern states.

Alexander McPherson, for sixteen years horticulturist for the state of Idaho, is in charge of the development on the Berrendo tract, and he is very enthusiastic over the prospects for the valley.

"I have never seen such great opportunities as we have here," said he. "We have all the good features of the other irrigated sections and we certainly have many that they lack. Here is land available adjoining a city of 10,000 people, a city of fine homes, good schools and large churches. The climate is all anyone could ask and the opportunities for making money are unlimited."

Irrigation Project For Lost River Land Financed in Chicago

Hawley, McDougall and Robinson Attend Conference and Approve Decisions.

CHICAGO, June 15.—(Special.)—The big Lost river irrigation project is to be completed with the least possible loss of time. James E. Clinton, Jr., the Boise banker, who has been financially interested in the gigantic undertaking, was here for several days in consultation with leading local financiers, and succeeded in forming a strong group to underwrite the bonds of the company. In the syndicate are the Continental Commercial National bank, the First National bank and the Chicago Title and Trust company.

Representing the state of Idaho in the negotiations have appeared Governor Hawley and Attorney General McDougall, who express themselves as being entirely satisfied with the arrangements completed with the bondholders, through W. D. Reilly, chairman of the bondholders' committee and manager of the underwriting syndicate. State Engineer Robinson of Idaho, was here working out the details of the plans that have been generally agreed to between himself and the company's engineers.

The arrangements just completed between the Idaho financial interests, those in Chicago and the Idaho state officials, mean that the work will be resumed with the least possible loss of time and will be pushed to completion. Mr. Reilly has given assurances that operations will be begun just as soon as the attorneys can shape up the legal matters.

As part of the plan it has been decided to install cement drops on the Powell tract, at the lower end of the Mackay segregation, which embraces much rich land, so that the settlers there will have the benefit of this year's flood waters. The Mackay dam will be completed as rapidly as the work can be done. It will be 120 feet high, as originally planned, but will be more massive and specially reinforced.

JUDITH BASIN TRANSFORMED

Extension of Jawbone Road Proves Big Boon to Lewistown.

TOWNS GROW LIKE MUSHROOMS

Prosperity Now Covers the Basin Like a Mantle—Country is Becoming Famous for Dry Farming.

HELENA, Mont., June 15.—(Special.)—Surrounded on all sides by mountain ranges the extensive Judith basin in Fergus county remained for years an isolated paradise for stockmen. Lewistown, the county seat, became the supply point for a rich mining region and for a stock country which extended for fifty miles on all sides. It was the busiest and most prosperous town without railroad communication in the northwest. Stages left for many points and the streets were crowded with passing freight teams of ten span of horses or more. If one wanted to get to Lewistown he would have to take the long stage ride from Fort Benton or Great Falls on the Great Northern, from Billings on the Northern Pacific or from Harlowton on a short railroad from the west locally known as the Jawbone. Many merchants and others who witnessed the animated scenes on the streets and knew of the amount of money that was in circulation frowned upon the proposal to build a railroad to connect the Judith basin with the rest of the world. Selfish stockmen were there, too, who wished to keep the country isolated, so that they might continue in undisturbed use of the public lands as a free range.

This condition continued until about eight years ago, when the Jawbone railroad was extended to Lewistown. Farming began on the Rock creek bench, the flourishing town of Moore sprang into being and the character of the country as a farming region was established. Three years ago the Great Northern opened a line through the Judith basin which connected at Great Falls and Billings with transcontinental lines. The Jawbone was acquired by the Milwaukee, whose new line through the state crossed the southern boundary of Fergus county, following the Musselshell river. The Judith basin woke up, and the transformation of this range country into a region of farms which then began has proceeded in the most astonishing manner. Lewistown and Moore grew rapidly and new towns sprang up like mushrooms. Back of the towns were the farms and the farmers who were making good. Grain elevators became familiar and suggestive features of the landscape.

Lewistown Springs Forward.

When released from its isolation Lewistown sprang forward in great bounds and suddenly found itself a center of railroad activity. Both the Great Northern and the Milwaukee have purchased rights-of-way for entrance into the town. The latter road is to build a branch from the Musselshell in the Lewis and Clark valley to Lewistown, and the Great Northern will connect Lewistown with its Billings and Northern branch at a point twenty miles west of the city. The long branch line of the Great Northern which is to be built from Mondak is expected to pass through the town. It will open for settlement a great farming region in the eastern part of the state, some of which is now 120 miles from any railroad. This region is likely to rival the experience of the Judith basin in the last three years. Not to be outdone in the race to reach the fertile Judith basin, the Northern Pacific has projected a line from Glendive to connect with the Great Northern at a convenient point near the western edge of the basin, whence a track to be used by both roads will be laid to Helena, opening up a new country, where the lines of the two roads cross. The construction of these roads will vastly increase the area that may be farmed with profit, but whether he is sitting as a delegate in a development congress, or as a representative in a secret society, religious, political or business convention the Judith basin man is apt to remark when occasion offers that Fergus county is something of a farming county "right now."

It is computed, he will point out, that there are to be harvested in the Judith basin this year 167,000 acres of winter wheat, 21,000 acres of spring wheat, 11,000 acres of oats and 8,000 acres of flax—a total of 209,000 acres. In an ordinary good year the average yield per acre is thirty bushels. The wheat crop may amount to 6,000,000 bushels and require 9,000 freight cars to handle it. To transport the 600,000 bushels of oats and the 162,000 bushels of flaxseed, the estimated yield, 182 cars will be required. The crop from 2,000 acres of potatoes will fill 600 cars. You may estimate how many miles of track would be filled with cars loaded with these crops if all trains were started at once. The figures furnished are astonishing, and the development has just begun.

However, even the old partisan of the stage lines and the freighting outfit will admit that the new methods of transportation are better than the old, and that the transformation of the country is something he never dreamed of as possible. The stockman, too, is reconciled to the new conditions. He knows that much mountainous and rough land will always be devoted to grazing and that the coming of railroads and the settlement of the country has enhanced the value of his deeded land 500 per cent. Most of the big ranches that were situated near the railroad have been cut up into farms. The former ranch owner, become the town capitalist, is using his money in enterprises for the development of the resources of the country. No longer he entertains the cowboy's and sheepman's long cherished and freely circulated opinion that Montana was destined to remain a grazing country. Some old stockmen have turned the cowpuncher's quirt or the shepherd's staff into plowshares and are extolling the merits of the country as a dry farming region. Times have changed and men have changed with them. Prosperity now covers the Judith basin as with a mantle. What will the harvest be when five times as many fertile acres, yet untilled, shall be producing crops?

MONTANA EXPECTS BIG CROPS

Rainfall and Other Factors Work Toward Heavy Production in Fields.

GREAT FALLS, Mont., June 15.—(Special.)—Business men who have lived in this section for forty-five years and have made a fortune here say there never has been a year of greater promise than this one, so far as the promise of good crops is concerned. The wheat, alfalfa and hay crops are now assured and the smaller crops have quite as good a promise for heavy yields. This has been a spring of snowy and rainy weather and when the month of

April usually is a dry month, more than twice the amount of precipitation fell this year, the total equalling almost an inch. May has added more than two inches, whereas less than an inch has been its customary share. The fields are all green and fine and the soil is full of moisture, and the farmers are as happy as children over the outlook.

As a result of this, land values have been of confidence pervades all this part of Montana. The sheepmen, stockmen and the farmers say this is a year that means a large profit to them and the herds and flocks on the hills reflect the same feeling with fuller bodies and sleeker coats than have been seen at the same time if ever before. Montana will be on the map this year, all declare, when its yield has been reckoned and changed into money by the producers.

Asparagus Grown in Willamette Valley

Small Grain Farming on Ranches is Given Up for the Prolific Root Crop.

EUGENE, June 15.—Small grain farming on ranches of from 400 to 1,000 acres has gone out of fashion in the upper Willamette valley, to a large extent, and has been succeeded on the rich alluvial bottoms, along water courses, by asparagus, celery, rutabagas, onions and other prolific bearing root crops. Several canneries men of California and other sections have visited the asparagus fields here and have pronounced them the best for their age they have ever seen. The harvest of the "grass" is now in full swing. Late spring rains have held back the product, but over a ton a day is now being hauled to the city merchants and express offices for shipment to Portland from one small farm of fifty acres. Asparagus begins to produce its commercial crop the second year and is excellent the third year. Lane county asparagus is selling at 10¢ cents this spring, while asparagus from eastern Washington is selling at 6 cents, and California markets have gone to pieces because of a rate fight among certain producers of the Sacramento valley, according to reports. The demand for the green tips is strong. The tubers grow very fast in the bottom irrigated soils. Onions, too, are a highly remunerative crop, the valley lands yielding all the way from 8,000 to 15,000 pounds per acre. This has been a demand for 70,000 pounds of Australian reds this season, which local markets were unable to get, the supply being cleaned up. Celery is a demonstrated success here, also. If the acreage for certain root crops were assured, the local fruit canneries say, a big industry would at once be established for canning beans, and other vegetables for the market. The local fruit growers have a very successful co-operative cannery.

Pumping Plants Being Installed

Nine pumping plants are being installed in the Moses Lake district in eastern Washington, ninety-five miles west of Spokane, where several thousand acres of land will be devoted to apple and other fruit trees. Gunther Carberg, president of the Vahlbala Orchard company, which is planting one tract of 220 acres, says the soil of the valley, which is formed by the Weber, Flannigan and Walker coulees, and is called Vacuna, meaning "the goddess of rural leisure," is chiefly volcanic ash, free from stones and sand. Water from an underground stream is reached at from twenty to thirty-three feet. The district was originally settled by German-Russian farmers who made the land productive by dry-farming methods.



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LARGE ORCHARDS PLANTED

Apple Growers Unusually Active in State of Washington.

INSTALLING PUMPING PLANTS

Twenty-Two Thousand Acres of Land in Owyhee County, Idaho, to Be Watered Under Carey Act Plan.

SPOKANE, Wash., June 15.—(Special.)—One of the show features of a private irrigation plant just completed on the Tremolo tract in the Spokane valley, four miles east of Spokane, is a well with four compartments 100 feet below the surface and an elevator service for the accommodation of visitors. The well, which was constructed at a cost of \$10,000, has a capacity of 50,000 gallons an hour, and is used to supply water for domestic and irrigation purposes to 350 acres of land, upon which nearly \$500,000 has been expended. The well is cement lined and the water is delivered in cement pipes, while the domestic supply is carried in steel piping. The tract is owned by the Ehlman-Burr company of Spokane, which will develop it as an orchard land.

Thirty-six thousand apple trees of standard varieties have been planted on the Chelan Butte orchards, 300 acres, near Chelan, Wash., where irrigation with tank wagons will be carried on until 1913, after which a pumping plant will be installed.

Idaho Land and Investment Company of Parma is planting an orchard five miles in length along the western boundary line of Idaho. There are 2,000 acres in the orchard, which begins at a point two miles north of Parma and ends two and a half miles above Nyssa. Fourteen hundred acres of land has been set to apple trees. In the center of the orchard has been planted the townsite of Apple Valley. The settlement is entirely, almost, of farmers, formerly residents of the state of Iowa, who are developing five and ten-acre tracts.

Stephen O. Jayne, manager of the federal government's irrigation projects in the northwest, with headquarters in Spokane, said on returning from a trip through the Columbia River valley that the farmers in the Altair and White Bluffs districts are keenly interested in the possibilities of dairy farming and hog raising.

"These localities under irrigation will raise large crops of alfalfa," he added. "The settlers are considering the matter of getting dairy cows and feeding them alfalfa, also going into hog raising on an extensive scale. The cultivation of alfalfa is needed for building up the fertility of the soil, which is naturally lacking in humus. Alfalfa, too, is a means of getting a quicker return on investments than fruit raising. In the valley, away from the railroads, it is worth \$20 a ton and on board the cars it brings \$21 a ton. Three or four crops can be raised in a season, equaling about seven tons to the acre. It is good for the land, enriching instead of exhausting it. Another point is that it increases the water holding capacity of the soil, an important matter where water is scarce or has to be pumped."

Twenty-two thousand acres of land in Owyhee county, Idaho, will be watered under a Carey act plan by the Inagon irrigation company, headed by W. H. Abel of Portland, Ore., and his associates, who have financed the project. The tract is in a recognized fruit belt along the Snake river, bordering Idaho and Oregon. Twenty-one miles of canal has already been constructed, and several thousand dollars expended upon construction work on the reservoir at the headquarters of Succor creek, from which water is to be supplied to the lands. Active work has

been started on the extension of the project and it will be pushed to completion.

Store at Cherry Creek, S. D., Burned. PIERRE, S. D., June 15.—(Special Telegram.)—A telephone message received here today from Cherry Creek, tells of the burning there of the Traders store, owned by H. T. Robinson and John M. Robb. They carried a stock of about \$20,000 worth but little insurance and the loss will be a heavy one on them.

The Key to the Situation—Bee Want Ads.

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