

ASK U.S. APPROPRIATION TO IRRIGATE IN MONTANA

Resolution Adopted by Institute Meeting Here Asserts Land to Be Watered Is Ample Security for Loans Needed.

Holding that irrigated land in Montana is sufficient security for money needed to place it under the ditch, the Montana Irrigation and Drainage Institute at the closing session of its annual meeting at Hotel Rainbow Saturday morning adopted a resolution asking that the national government appropriate funds for the reclamation of vast areas of arid land within the state. Confidence was expressed that money thus furnished would be wholly returned to the national treasury.

The resolution was one of several submitted by a committee named at the opening session last Thursday, other demands being for the furnishing of disinterested irrigation information at the expense of the state; for the protection of the financial and physical integrity of the state's irrigation enterprises; for centralized control of the waters of the state; for the measurement of streams; for the earliest possible completion of the soil survey initiated this year by the Montana experiment station in co-operation with the United States department of agriculture; for the establishing of two additional branch experimental stations, and for the protection of the water sheds from forest fires.

Failure Irrigation Development
The meeting adjourned permanently a short time before noon, after the resolutions had been adopted and an address had been given by George Eber, water master of the Valier project and J. Winter Smith, newly elected president of the institute. Mr. Eber discussed farm lateral systems and President Smith talked on the organization and development of irrigation projects. Mr. Smith followed successively the steps taken in developing the state's irrigation resources to their present status, describing several projects in the course of his talk. He described the first efforts of the individual or company to develop irrigation, which were followed by the corporations, by enterprises launched under the Carey act and, finally, by the United States reclamation service.

One of the addresses delivered at the meeting of the institute which caused considerable comment was one by C. E. Atwood, chief engineer of the Valier Land & Water Co. Mr. Atwood discussed the state's need of a new water code and was asked to go into this matter because of his intimate knowledge of the subject. His company, after spending approximately \$4,000,000 in developing a project, is now required

whereas, the state legislature has recently provided certain safeguards and avenues for the public, disinterested information and advice in the Montana irrigation commission, the irrigation district bond commission and the state examiner, now, therefore,

"Be it resolved, that we commend the policy of protection of the physical and financial integrity of the irrigation enterprises of the state."

"That we commend the work of the Montana irrigation commission and the irrigation district bond commission and recommend that the administration of these boards be continued and provided for by appropriate legislation."

Water Rights Included
"Whereas, it is recognized that the laws of Montana relating to the initiation, administration and adjudication of water rights are inadequate, difficult of operation and not in keeping with the progressive legislation of other western states, and

"Whereas, the administration of the water resources of this state is of the greatest public concern, and

"Whereas, no consistent advancement in agriculture in this state can be assured unless a centralized control of the waters of the state is established, now therefore,

"Be it resolved, that it is the sense of this institute that Montana should, at its next legislative session, enact a water code which will provide for the survey, administration and determination of the rights to the use of all the waters of the state according to the general plan established by a majority of the other western states."

Want Streams Measured
"Whereas, the question of water supply is of the greatest importance in the consideration of any irrigation development and a satisfactory knowledge of the stream-flow is not obtainable by estimates, but can be determined only by stream measurements extending over a period of years, therefore,

"Be it resolved that it is the recommendation of the Montana Irrigation and Drainage Institute that more liberal appropriations be made for the continuation of stream measurements by the office of the State Engineer in cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey, and that, so far as practical, this work be conducted in cooperation with the state college of engineering."

"Whereas the soil of the state is its greatest natural asset and whereas as full a knowledge as possible of the nature, kind and quality of the soil is fundamental to proper and adequate use of said soils in agricultural production, therefore,

"We would ask that the soil survey,

instituted this year by the Montana experiment station in co-operation with the United States department of agriculture be pushed to completion as soon as possible and we would further request that adequate provision be made for the continuation of said soil survey."

"Whereas, because of the large area of the state of Montana and of the great difference in the altitude and climate of various parts of the state, which call for the use of crop of many kinds and varieties in different sections, and

"Whereas the present branch or sub-stations do not adequately serve all sections of the state because of their varied climatic conditions."

Want Two Branch Stations.
"Therefore, we would urge that two more branch stations be established, one in the eastern part of the state and the other west of the Rocky mountains."

"We would also urge that these branch stations be so located as to make possible adequate and thorough studies of irrigation methods and practices, as well as of dry farm crop methods."

"We would further ask that there be established by the state legislature at the experiment stations of the state college a soil laboratory, equipped and manned so as to be available to any farmer in the state in the study of the soil of any farm in the state on the request of the owner, said service for the farmers, apart from the equipment and maintenance of the laboratory at the institution, to be paid for by the farms at actual cost for the work done."

Protection for Timber
"Whereas, an adequate supply of water is necessary to the irrigation of arid lands, and whereas, the protection of the watersheds is dependent upon the protection of the timber from fire and from wasteful lumbering, be it

"Resolved, that the Montana Irrigation and Drainage Institute in annual convention assembled at Great Falls, Mont., this 8th, 9th and 10th of December, 1921, does endorse the work of the United States forest service, the Montana state forest department and the Lumbermen's association of the state in the conservation of the forests of this state, and be it further resolved that we recommend that adequate funds be provided by the federal and state governments for the continuance and extension of this work."

Approves Adjustment
"Whereas, the long standing source of dispute between the United States and Canada over the division of the waters of the Milk and St. Mary's

rivers has now been satisfactorily settled, be it resolved that this convention desires to go on record as approving the work and the decisions of the International Joint Committee."

K. A. Hills of Butte, A. B. Casteel of Great Falls, A. E. Walsh of Havre, E. L. Cole of Great Falls, C. F. Farmer of Missoula and J. H. Benson of Helena were named members of the institute's publicity committee; W. J. Eggleston of Helena, C. E. Atwood of Valier, W. A. Lamb of Helena, F. B. Connelly of Billings and C. S. Heidel of Helena of the legislative committee; E. F. Meyerhoff of Forest and W. A. Gribble of Helena of the finance committee.

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Snow on Sidewalk Enriches Butte \$350
Butte, Dec. 10.—Failure on the part of local property owners to sweep the snow from the sidewalks was the occasion for enriching the city treasury \$350 in the last two days. Violators numbering 35 were assessed \$10 fines and, judging from the vigilance of the police department and the number of warrants being sworn out, there will be many more haled into court.

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