

# THE UNION.

"FROM THE LITTLE ACORN GROWS THE MASSIVE OAK."

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## TO RECLAIM THE DESERT.

### Operations Initiated for Reservoir Construction in Sevier.

From The Salt Lake Herald.

Two millions of money are to be spent in Utah on the construction, in Sevier county, of the largest natural reservoir in the world, and a contiguous system of canals for the propagation of vast water power and the irrigation of the largest area of barren soil over which the ingenuity of man has ever had full scope.

Operations have even now been initiated under the engineering direction of Baron Theo Van Gestel, the man who projected a railway across the island of Java for the government of Holland. Baron Van Gestel ranks as one of the most scientific and daring engineers in all Europe. His services have always been employed on enterprises of great magnitude, a feature that distinguished his undertaking for Holland. In 1895 there appeared in the pages of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* a most interesting account of the obstacles encountered and mastered in the construction of the Japanese railway. Its author was Baron Van Gestel, the man who has been selected by an Eastern syndicate to carry the immense Sevier venture to a successful termination.

Most careful preparation has attended the plans of the syndicate, the principal personages of which are not known. The work of lobbying a bill through the legislature which grants enormous rights and privileges to this syndicate has demanded the presence of at least two representatives in Salt Lake during most of the legislative session. Morton B. Hirsh and Hon. Thomas Kavanaugh of Philadelphia have been on the ground nearly two months, not departing for the East until the action of the legislature with regard to their scheme was assured. The bill was passed, the text of which appeared in the daily proceedings as published by *The Herald*. Mr. Hirsh left for Philadelphia two weeks ago, while Mr. Kavanaugh remained until Saturday evening. Meantime Engineer Van Gestel has been surveying on the Sevier river for five weeks. This preliminary work will last for the same length of time before a spadeful of earth is moved.

#### TWO YEARS FOR THE WORK.

Two years will be required for the completion of a dam, canals and hydraulic plant, which aggregated will constitute the water power plant and irrigation supply.

By the erection of a dam of massive masonry, of dimensions 1,400 feet in length and 70 feet high, an upper valley of the Sevier river will be entirely closed, so as to form an

expanse of water 44 miles square, and of an average depth of 60 feet. The Sevier river now courses through the lowest depression of this valley, leading it through a canyon at the north end across which the dam must be built.

Convenient to this point and still within the canyon, a hydraulic plant of 5,000 horse-power is to go. It will supply power for Tintic and other mining camps. The canals, both of which will be about 15 feet in width by 10 feet in depth, are 60 and 40 miles long. Their headgates are placed in the dam and the water carried down each side of the canyon to points where one turns by an easy grade around the foot of a spur and takes a course almost directly south with slight variations. This canal extends for 60 miles across what is known as the Sevier desert, having an area of 50,000 square miles. The other canal proceeds north over 40 miles of distributing territory. Several thousand workmen will be constantly employed on the work during the next two years, and the promoters say that over 100,000 square miles of the Sevier desert acreage will be taken up for colonization purposes before the reservoir is finished. The plan will be bountifully advertised throughout the Eastern States and special inducements will be offered homeseekers in the way of cheap territory for homesteads and low railway transportation, arrangements having already been made with various railways for low rates. It is the idea of the promoters to have many of those who engage in construction work become settlers on the lands covered by the reservoir. These are the main details of the great venture which seems to promise much for Utah.

The Oregon Short Line has become interested to the extent of furnishing Engineer Van Gestel and his party of 24 assistants, with two coaches, which will run to the nearest railway point and constitute the headquarters of the party.

The wife of John G. Kitchen, the Kane County cattle king, has been granted a divorce, with the custody of three minor children, \$15,000 alimony and \$750 attorney's fees.

The Mojave Miner says it is reported that Deputy Sheriff Ferris has located the Indian murderer, Little Mouse, on the Piute Indian reservation in Nevada. An application will have to be made to the War department before the civil authorities can get their hands on him.

The S. M. Butcher incest case came up for trial at Kanab last week and the defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. Butcher is a man of 75 years of age, and has borne a bad character nearly all his life. He seemed very little concerned when the sentence was announced, accompanied by a severe lecture.

## PREPARE TO SPRAY.

### The First Step Toward Orchard Disinfection.

It is safe to assert that 90 per cent of the people in Utah who have failed to obtain satisfactory results from spraying, have neglected the very first essential in orchard disinfection, i. e., thorough cleansing of the premises. While spraying utensils cost money, and not every owner of a dozen fruit trees may feel justified in purchasing a complete outfit, yet every man has, or should have, a spade, hoe, rake, pruning tools and grubbing hoe.

Spraying, when properly done, cannot fail to kill all insects that are reached by the poisons used. However, the most painstaking efforts will fail to put the spray in the way of every individual insect. Such specimens as escape are, in the course of six or eight weeks, completely transformed into flying moth and prepared to infest the trees with a fresh brood of worms. The work of this later brood is noticeable in the disgusting holes extending through the skin of the late apples. The second and third broods of worms may be almost completely prevented by removing the fallen apples from the ground beneath the trees every few days. This cannot be effectually done if the ground is covered with weeds to hide the wormy apples. Not only do the weeds and grass favor the development of the worms that are in the fallen apples, but numerous species of insects and various forms of fungus diseases are harbored by the cover of vegetable growth beneath the trees.

The most casual observer has noticed the thick covering of woolly aphids on suckers and sprouts about the old apple and pear trees. These insects thrive best on the tender branches of the season's growth and then find a safe retreat in the roots during the winter. From the roots of the suckers to the main tree is an easy journey, and the next season the aphid is thoroughly entrenched in the main tree. While the aphides do not kill the trees outright, they persistently drain the vitality by sucking the juices that should go to the new growth and to the fruit. In the ravages of these insects may be found at least part of the explanation of the small, imperfect apples now produced on trees that formerly bore the choicest fruit.

#### BE THOROUGH.

In addition to the weeds and suckers about the trees, the dense brush fence rows and ditch banks afford most excellent breeding places and safe retreat for immeasurable insects, especially the various

species of grubs and borers. The willow and cottonwood hedges that were so useful in pioneer days in Utah are no longer needed and should be dug up by the roots. The most successful orchardists in the State today have not a rod of brush fence about their premises.

Another most essential step preparatory to spraying is the removal of all dead branches, and much of the interior growth from the tops of the older trees. It is impossible to reach the fruit with spray when the foliage is so dense that a direct stream, much less a fine mist, cannot be thrown through the tree tops. All fruit growing in the inaccessible recesses of a dense top is very certain to harbor worms, which will not only spoil such fruit, but reproduce other worms to infest the entire crop. Aside from the other numerous reasons for pruning, the above is alone sufficient.

The foregoing hints are given at this time because much of the work indicated can best be done during the next six weeks. These suggestions may be carried out without any expenditure of money, and Utah farmers, while short on cash, have an abundance of surplus time on hand.

Within a few days the specific regulations and instructions for spraying will be issued by the Board of Horticulture as required by law. The provisions of the new horticultural law are mandatory and, while stringent, are not burdensome, and are such as have stood the test of the highest courts in other States. Meanwhile every citizen who desires to show to visitors during our proud jubilee year just how Utah can excel in choicest fruits, should feel in duty bound to aid in the very first proper step toward the extermination of orchard pests.

J. A. WRIGHT,  
Sec. State Board of Horticulture.

#### McKeon's Great Freight Haul.

Milford, March 24.—If nothing serious has happened today in the management of the same, P. B. McKeon's team train is tonight going down the last slope before striking the incline leading up to the great De La Mar (Nevada) mines, thus covering the distance of 160 miles between Milford and that point in twenty-one days. To get at some idea of the undertaking, consider that for thirty-eight miles of the distance both axles of the heaviest loaded wagons were dragging the mud. It often took forty span of the heaviest draft horses in southern Utah to move a wagon. In one instance the huge shaft toppled over against an embankment and not within forty miles were there timbers enough to make a skid for reloading. Here the shovel was used and excavations made for sinking the wagon level with the surface, in which condition the load was again

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