

# IRRIGATION CONGRESS IN HIGH SPIRIT

## OVER 1,300 DELEGATES PRESENT CREDENTIALS

L. W. SHURLIFF,

FORMER SENATOR FRANK J. CANNON,

(Continued from Page One.)

The streets were alive early. Soon after daylight the people appeared in numbers, en route to their morning meals, while the throngs were increasing later by the arrival of trains bearing their burdens of delegates who poured out in all directions, seeking rooms, visiting headquarters, and endeavoring to become somewhat acquainted with the city.

The morning session, opening the convention, was scheduled to begin at 9:30 o'clock at the tabernacle. An hour or more before that time the stream started down Washington avenue in the direction of the Irving place. By the appointed time all the available space, except that reserved for the delegates, was crowded and the throngs were overflowing the sidewalk and out on the street.

### Tabernacle Bright With Flowers.

The tabernacle was a bower, bright with varied colors and animated by the presence of the dense throng. The scent of sagebrush perfumed the building. Great clusters of the gray and red and blue plants were against the wall above the platform. In contrast with it and teaching the lesson of irrigation, were huge sheaves of yellow wheat, oats, arranged above and below and on the side of the other vegetation.

Platons of pine, relieved at intervals by clusters of bright red sumach, were hung gracefully along the walls and enclosed pictures of President W. A. Clark, Vice President L. Bradford Prince, Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson, Executive Committee E. W. Kern and other celebrities of the congress.

The rostrum was draped in green and silver, the colors of the irrigation congress—green for the water and silver for the vegetation that it brings. Above the organ in the extreme rear was a picture of President Roosevelt, draped with an American flag. J. M. Ferrin, c. W. Ferrin and a number of other national officers surrounded the picture of Brigham Young and Geo. Q. Cannon on each side of the platform, and the other pictures along the walls.

A huge chandelier of yellow and brown sunflowers stood on a post on one side of the rostrum, while on the other were brown, red and white asters.

### Resembled National Convention.

The delegates came straggling in, taking their places as shown by the lions banners, which made the body of the house reminiscent of a political convention. On each side of the platform, in front, were boxes reserved for the speakers. Among those who occupied these positions of honor were Lorin Farr, celebrated as the progenitor of the largest known family in the world, and the valiant farmer, the suicide.

Others in the post of honor were Richard Taylor, P. G. Taylor, Joseph Parry, Bishop Robert Quinn, J. M. Ferrin, c. W. Ferrin and a number of other national officers. In the background were the seats for the choir and forward on the platform were the seats for the officials of the congress and guests.

There was a cheer as President W. A. Clark entered and took his seat, and Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson was greeted by a number of those on the platform were President W. A. Clark, First Vice President L. Bradford Prince of Santa Fe, N. M., Second Vice President Alexander J. McCowan of Denver, Third Vice President E. H. Libby of Clarkston, Wash., Secretary H. E. Maxson of Reno, Nevada, Executive Chairman F. J. Kiesel of Ogden, General Representative Gilbert McClurg of Colorado Springs, Governor Heber M. Wells of Utah, Governor Spurr of Nevada, Governor Graves of California, J. L. Clark of Idaho, McKay and Apostle John Henry Smith.

The delegation of Washington correspondents had seats in front in the body of the house.

### Prayer by President Winder.

It was 10:50 o'clock when President Clark called for order and introduced President John K. Winder, first counselor to the Mormon church. President Winder gave the invocation. He prayed that the congress would result in good to all the intermountain region, and that the session would be marked by peace and harmony.

"Irrigation has to us a charm when we remember the glorious achievements brought about through that agency," said he. "The irrigation has made the springing up of cities, villages and farms where once had been a desert."

"We may plant, we may water," said he, "but the Lord must give the increase." He blessed the president of the congress and the other officers.

"Now, our Father," he concluded, "we dedicate this congress to thee, and ask thy blessing on all those interested, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

### WELCOME BY GOVERNOR WELLS.

Chief Executive of State Addresses the Visitors.

Governor Heber M. Wells then welcomed the delegates in behalf of the state. He spoke as follows:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Eleventh Irrigation Congress: It is my profound pleasure to congratulate you upon the imposing and magnificent character of your delegation as well as to welcome you, from the best irrigated districts of my heart, back to 2999 old and first love—the state of Utah. You are a noble and a noble reminder that a dozen years ago you first came west in our sister city of Salt Lake, imbued with a public spirit and an enthusiasm which not only springs from the hearts of the veterans who are still with you, and were carried to be grave by the second ones since before, but have also stimulated and inspired the ranks of the army of new workers who have come upon the stage since that time. Seventeen states and territories were represented in that historic gathering. It originated in the conviction that the possibilities of the arid west were not appreciated, and in the statesmanlike thought that the irrigated lands of the future, were inadequate to the needs of the future. There were giants in those days; and while some have passed away, a goodly number yet remain, whom I revere as tried and true, and ever doughty champions in the mighty cause. I extend Utah's greeting with cordiality to the veterans of the irrigation movement—the former because we still need the promptings of their ripened wisdom; the latter because in the campaigns yet to be entered, the vigor and earnestness of buoyant youth may not be put aside."

### Of Benefit to All.

"No longer do we hear as the narrow reason for not appointing delegates to these congresses that such appointment would leave the impression that the state from which they came might be in need of irrigation. Such an idea is as obsolete as the notion that any commonwealth or territory can be permanently and permanently prospered by another offers. And though there may be regions where artificial irrigation may not be necessary, there are none so blessed or so isolated as to be unaffected by the products and profits which irrigation in other sections comes bearing on its shoulder to their very doors. Cities and communities which



Of Ogden, Vice President for Utah of the Irrigation Congress

Sixty years ago no section was more barren than the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Other portions of our great commonwealth were no more inviting. Modesty forbids that the host should praise his own viands or wines. But our guests, are not only discriminating and truthful, but also generous and unreserved in your praises, and if any of you know of a lovelier and more prosperous region than Utah's parallel of cultivated valleys, we will gladly accompany you any reasonable distance in order to enjoy the picture. Yet this transformation of our arid acres into fertile lands of a community poor in natural goods or resources. If such things can be accomplished by such agencies in such a brief period of time, how much may not be done where the national guaranty and support comes to the aid of the homeseeker?

### New Picture of Future.

"My friends, you have every encouragement to press forward boldly with the work in hand. As surely as we are today looking each other in the face, just so surely will the next few years witness the improvement and redemption of our arid acres in thousands upon thousands of happy homes. The congested conditions of our larger cities, where men are forced, through lack of means, to stay and starve out their lives and sweat, and where you seldom see God's blessed sunshine or look upon his mighty handiwork in nature, will be corrected when, with certain of agricultural success, which irrigation assures, a little farm can be secured to which the honest toil of the family adds value and beauty, which they themselves can enjoy. You who are here before me, are all alive to see this, but those who shall not soon pass away may do so with the satisfaction that for such work as you are here before me, are all performing millions will yet rise up and call them blessed."

"Let us unite in striving for and working for the advent of the day when our fellow men, and especially our fellow men, shall be brought into closer communion with the soil—that good and gentle Mother Earth, out of whose elements we were created, from which we have received our sustenance, and into whose embrace we

## PRESIDENT CLARK'S ADDRESS.

### Compliments Utah and Discusses Irrigation and Forestry.

"Gentlemen of the National Irrigation Congress: The honor has been assigned to me to respond in behalf of the irrigation congress, and it is a privilege and a pleasure to be welcomed with such the generous and hospitable people of Ogden, through their distinguished representative, and his excellency, the governor of Utah, have so eloquently greeted us. And what a royal welcome am I sure we all felt the inspiration of its sincerity the moment we entered your beautiful city. The very atmosphere vibrates with it; we read it upon your banners; we see it beaming from your eyes; we feel the thrill of its magic touch in the cordial handshake accorded us on all sides.

### Pioneers of Irrigation.

"The congress made no mistake when it decided upon Ogden as the place for this convention. Words are inadequate to express the appreciation which I know all the visiting members feel for the pleasant manner in which we have been received. It lends a charm to the serious work which we have met to perform which shall be a constant source of delight when, in years to come, we revert on memory's page to the incidents of the Ogden meeting. It is evident from the preparations that have been made, the number and distinguished character of those in attendance, the splendid exhibits of irrigation products, and the eager enthusiasm which emphasizes the opening ceremonies, that this eleventh session of the irrigation congress will stand pre-eminent above all preceding ones in the importance of its proceedings.

"We have passed the first mile post and have scored a great victory. 'Nothing succeeds like success' is a motto which is true and which the friends of irrigation worked earnestly and hopefully, but their efforts were rewarded by position and encouragement, but at last, having secured an impressive position, they will summon all their energy and wisdom to lay out, expand and perfect the plans which have been outlined, which will result in building up a great agricultural and industrial empire in the western zone of the republic.

### First Congress Held in Utah.

"It is eminently appropriate, both from an historical and practical standpoint, that Utah should have this convention within her borders, as here was the cradle of the agitation of the irrigation problem in relation to government aid. This led to calling a convention of all interested in the subject, which met at Salt Lake City twelve years ago this very day.

"I had the honor of being one of the delegates from Montana to that convention, and I see quite a number here today who participated in its deliberations.

"There was a great variance of opinion as to the feasibility of the government ceding the public lands to the respective states and allowing them to control the irrigation project; many plausible arguments were adduced and ably presented in favor

of that plan. I believe that now it is almost universally conceded that the system embodied in the present law is the best; moreover, there are some interstate questions touching water rights involved, which under the existing plan could not be reconciled. The legislation now secured in the development of all that great selected the magnificent valleys of Utah as their abiding place, they appropriately called the region Desert.

### Granary of the World.

"It may be truthfully said that the United States feeds the world; but for her wheat and corn fields, there would be starvation in many lands. The destruction of one-half of our grain crops would be followed by famine and pestilence in many parts of the world. Japan is discarding the rice and bread for American food, and John Chinaman has commenced to nibble 'Gineeda biscuit' and says 'me heap like.' In 1902 we exported agricultural products of the value of over \$25,000,000, of which the United Kingdom took about half. At the same time Japan took over \$12,000,000, and this amount will be double in very soon.

"Only one thing lacked to meet the requirements that the name would fully imply. The wonderfully fertile soil, with only the natural moisture which the heavens supplied, refused to yield the expected crops, so that it became necessary to divert the streams to water the land, when indeed they caused the apparent desert, as if by magic, to blossom as the rose." Thus the Mormon people became the pioneers in the practice of irrigation and paved the way for the development of the irrigated mountain region, which their presence here and activity hastened and facilitated much more than is generally known or appreciated.

"No act of the national congress has done so much to promote the irrigation of the arid lands.

### An Instance in Point.

"It opens up a new era of prosperity for sixteen states and territories. It provides the means for overcoming aridity, the great obstacle that has retarded the settlement of more than one-third the area of the republic. It is estimated that there remain in the arid and semi-arid zones about 200,000,000 acres of vacant public land, and that there is sufficient water available under the storage system to irrigate about one-tenth of it. The area already occupied and irrigated is 6,000,000 acres. If in the next thirty years the government should provide reservoirs sufficient to reclaim 20,000,000 acres at an expenditure of \$10,000,000 annually, which is a very conservative estimate, as that amount will be easily reclaimed from sales of land, the land reclaimed will provide homes for at least 12,000,000 people, which, with the immense property values necessarily created, will constitute a magnificent

sink at last when life's last struggle is done.

"As the parched soil of the arid west welcomes the first drops of water that come from the irrigation stream, so slake the burning thirst of centuries, so we of Utah welcome you, my friends, as our deliverers and the redeemers of our deserts."

Mayor Giamann gave a welcome in behalf of the city of Ogden.

Senator Clark then made the response in behalf of the delegates.

### Secretary Hitchcock's Letter.

"Secretary McClurg, Esq., General Representative Executive Committee, the National Irrigation Congress, Ogden, Utah.

"Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of July 29, which I found awaiting my return to the city a few days ago. The able and thoughtful illustration of how necessary it is for the citizens of Ogden and of the state of Utah at the National Irrigation congress to be held Sept. 15 to 18, and regret that I am unable to accept your very courteous invitation. I shall be very busy at that time, preparing my annual report, but I assure you of my very active interest in all matters relating to irrigation or the reclamation of arid lands, the possibilities of which cannot be overestimated in the interest of all the people of the whole country, but more especially of the sections lying between the Rockies and the Mississippi river.

"Much good work in the way of preliminary surveys, estimates, etc., has already been done, and no time has been or will be lost by the department in meeting the conditions and requirements of the reclamation act.

"It has been a source of great pleasure to me to have been in any way identified with this great work, and I assure you that every effort will be made on my part to fully meet the expectations and desires of the members of the convention, whose deliberations, I am sure, will be most instructive and which I shall read with interest.

(Signed) "E. A. HITCHCOCK."



Who was prevented by illness from taking part in yesterday's session.

industry. If only congress had passed the irrigation act, instead of the desert land act, many years ago, it would have been a godsend to the western country, and it would at least have prevented the wholesale acquisition of immense areas controlling largely streams and sources of water supply, in some instances by questionable methods, to the exclusion of actual settlers. In many cases the actual requirements of the law were not complied with, and the prevailing sentiment is that congress should make haste to wipe that law from the statute books. The commutation feature of the homestead act has been wisely eliminated in the recent act to prevent speculation and protect the actual settler. The whole act contemplates the cultivation of small farms and closely settled communities. This is conducive to social and intellectual culture, and farm life promotes good citizenship.

"The immigrant who comes to our shores and strikes out for the west gets a piece of land and makes his home there, in course of time becomes an ideal citizen. His children go to school and learn our language, and in a short time the whole family become Americanized and imbued with the spirit of patriotism. But as to the immigrants now coming in vast hordes from central and southern Europe to this country, who, when they land, settle in foreign colonies in the large cities or drift out along the channels of industrial activity and settle in communities in the iron and coal and manufacturing districts, retaining their customs, habits and language, it is impossible that these people can be assimilated and Americanized, and such immigration should be prohibited or at least restricted.

"Preliminary operations under the irrigation act have been wisely distributed over the arid states and territories. Fortunate it is that the work to be done is under the authority of departments of the government whose chiefs are friendly to the cause, and above all that the president himself is an enthusiast on the subject of irrigation, and has done everything in his power to promote its advancement.

### Money Now Available.

"According to the reports of the interior department, the amounts covered into the treasury, available under this act, were in 1901 over \$2,000,000; in 1902, about \$4,500,000; and in 1903, nearly \$8,500,000, making an aggregate of over \$15,000,000 now available and showing a remarkable increase from year to year.

"Under instructions from the secretary of the interior, particular attention has been directed to five projects, one of which is the St. Mary's, in Montana; the Sweetwater, in Wyoming; the Gunnison, in Colorado; the Truckee-Carson, in Nevada, and the Salt river, in Arizona.

"The progress of this work will be watched with intense interest. A comprehensive report of the reclamation service, beautifully illustrated and accompanied with maps was issued in December by the interior department, which is full of interesting details. It will be found necessary to make some amendments to the law. Questions of this character will be fully discussed in this congress, whose members are eminently qualified by actual experience to offer valuable suggestions. These will be very helpful to members of congress in further consideration of the subject; and I have no doubt that resolutions embodying the consensus of opinion will be respectfully and favorably considered.

### Necessity of Forest Preservation.

"Forestry and irrigation go hand in hand together, the latter being largely dependent upon the former. The preservation of our forests is of paramount importance. The forest regions of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been practically denuded of their timber, and the agricultural states of the west will have to look to the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states for future supplies. Denudation of forests means torrential rainfalls and subsequent destruction of property.

"The government did not begin the work of setting aside large reservations too soon. However, much remains to be done. Merely marking out boundaries within which timber cutting is restricted or prohibited is not sufficient. Forest fires destroy annually hundreds of miles of timber, and obscure the heavens for weeks at a time, in Montana, Washington and Idaho and in other states. The story of destruction of State legislation which meets this difficulty. The government should make liberal and ample appropriations to establish patrol systems and provide such other means as will be necessary to minimize the loss as much as possible. Many millions of dollars worth of timber in each of these states might be saved each year, and the results will warrant a large expenditure. This subject will, do doubt, receive earnest attention at this convention.

"If I conclude I beg to assure you, my friends, that I am proud of my identification with this noble work, and appreciate the great honor of being thought worthy to preside over the deliberations of this distinguished assembly.

"I share with you the inexpressible enjoyment of the cordial hospitality of the good people of Ogden, as well as the pleasure of participation in the discussion of the fascinating subject, which we are all striving to promote. From the very inception of the movement, it has invoked the noblest impulses and the highest aspirations of all who desire to make the earth more fruitful and enjoyable and the people who dwell thereon better and more happy. Its fulfillment is the goal to which we all strive, and the inspiration of our fondest hopes, for the welfare of the generations that are to follow."

### LETTER FROM PRESIDENT.

Chief of Nation Sends Greeting and Message.

After the applause had died away Secretary H. B. Maxson read the following communications:

- Mr. Fred J. Kiesel, Chairman Executive Committee, the National Irrigation Congress, Ogden, Utah.
- My Dear Sir: Permit me to express through you to the Irrigation congress my hearty congratulations upon what has been accomplished in the year that has just passed, especially because I regard this as opening a new era in the treatment of irrigation from a national standpoint. None of our internal policies will be more consequent to the future of the country than during the next few decades.
- It is of vital consequence to the intermountain states and to the entire semi-arid region, and what is of vital consequence to one portion of our country is of vital consequence to the whole country.
- (Signed) "THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Irrigation Ode Sung.

The prize ode to irrigation, written

by Mrs. Gilbert McClurg of Colorado Springs, and composed by Professor J. J. McClellan of Salt Lake, was sung. Miss Luella Ferrin sang the soprano solo. She was supported by Mrs. Besse, Miss Ann Allison, contralto; Charlton P. Ferrin, tenor, and Andrew Bowman, baritone. Professor McClellan was at the piano and Joseph Ballantyne directed the Tabernacle choir of 200 voices. After the soloist the quartette and the choir had lifted up their voices in the sweet strains, the audience rose and joined in the words of the song of "America," making a swelling chorus which filled the building with melody.

Mrs. McClurg, the author of the words, was brought forward, amid an outburst of cheers. Standing before the audience, she expressed her thanks in a few graceful words. She complimented the inspiring music composed by Professor McClellan, and the manner in which it had been interpreted.

"If any words of mine have aided in any way the cause of irrigation," said she, "I am indeed a proud and happy woman today."

### Professor McClellan Speaks.

Professor McClellan was then introduced by President Clark.

"He's a Utah product," said a voice. "Yes," said Professor McClellan, "and I've done lots of irrigation work here."

He spoke about the work he had done as a farmer boy, and said the object of the song had been an inspiration to him to write the music.

Mr. Ballantyne was also presented to the audience.

Vice President L. Bradford Prince spoke of the eloquent words and the splendid music which had marked the opening.

It has transcended anything previously seen at any irrigation congress," said he. "We are almost sure to find our journey without transacting any business at all, and we would be well repaid as it is."

Nevertheless he said there was real business to be transacted. He therefore moved that three standing committees be appointed—credentials, permanent organization and resolutions. The standing of one member from each state represented, the member to be chosen by the state delegation. This motion prevailed.

After some routine announcements, President Clark introduced Alexander Brown, who dug the first irrigation ditch in northern Utah. Mr. Brown said he had worked in the same field in Weber county, between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets in Ogden, and had raised a pretty fair crop.

### Cheers For Secretary Wilson.

Secretary James Wilson was brought forward, and a wild yell went up.

"What wonderful things are going on in this western country!" he exclaimed. "I want to meet a man who has as much faith in the future of this state and the betterment of it as I have myself," he declared later on.

"There are fourteen of us from Kansas," remarked a voice.

Mr. Winder said that the gold and silver from the mountains were not worth as much as the agriculture, important as they might be. The object of the irrigation congress was to aid in getting plant food to the plant. New legislation might be needed, but in gaining it the congress would have the assistance of a powerful advocate in his department, congress always save it whatever it asked.

When I have the backing of Senator Clark, the other senators of the mountain states, they can't deny us," he said.

Colonel Ignacio Alhimer, military attaché of the Mexican embassy at Washington, a civil engineer and the representative of the Mexican government, was brought forward and introduced by the president. He expressed regret that he had not sufficient command of the English language to say all he felt, but he wished to express his thanks for the invitation.

"I avail myself of this opportunity," said he, "to express my appreciation of the great work already accomplished at this great event. I esteem very much the courtesy which has been extended."

The instant his voice died away the Mexican band in the rear of the room struck up the national anthem of Mexico. M. Max du Couppé de la Forest was the next speaker. He also expressed regret at his insufficient command of the English language, but he said he had seen in this country only twelve weeks.

"In France we study very much irrigation," he said, "not the same way you do, exactly. There were very fertile soils, but we have many people who must study a way to get more out of it."

After the announcement of the meeting places of the various state delegations the convention took a recess for lunch.

### ROOSEVELT WIRES CONGRESS.

Says Irrigation Policy Requires Forest Preservation.

Senator Clark called the congress to order for the afternoon session at 2:30. The main business of the afternoon session was the reading of a letter from President Roosevelt, which was read by Secretary H. B. Maxson. The letter was filled with such a content that some of the delegates were unable to find seats. To relieve this condition the president moved the California and Montana delegations to the platform. This move opened up the space thus made vacant, and other delegations occupied Idaho's former space, thus permitting all delegates to have seats.