

# THE RONAN PIONEER

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Located in the Heart of the Great Flathead Indian Reservation

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## What the Reclamation Service Has Done so Far

The Reclamation service has issued a statement showing the amount of work done in that branch of service on the various projects in Montana. As Pioneer readers are especially interested in the Flathead portion, there is printed below only what has been given out in reference thereto. E. F. Tabor is engineer in charge and has headquarters at St. Ignatius. The expenditure has not been as great as expected and the work is progressing rapidly under his wise direction.

The following details are given in connection with the Flathead project relating to location and climate conditions:

Counties: Flathead, Sanders and Missoula.

Townships: 15 to 25 N. ranges 17 to 25 west Montana meridian. Railroad: Northern Pacific.

Railroad stations: Evaro, Arlee, Ravalli, Dixon and Perma, Mont.

Average elevation of irrigable area: 2,800 feet above the sea level.

Average annual rainfall on irrigable area: 15 inches.

Range of temperature on irrigable area: 50 degrees Fahrenheit to 96 degrees Fahrenheit.

Source of water supply: Flathead, Jocko and Little Bitter Root rivers; Mud, Crow, Post, Mission, Dry, Fliley, Agency, Big Knife, and Valley creeks.

Area of drainage basin: 8,000 square miles.

Reservoirs: Seventeen; aggregate area, 12,000 acres; aggregate capacity, 140,000 acre feet.

Storage dams: About 12, most of which will be of the earth-fill or earth-and-rock-fill type.

Diversion dams: Rock-filled log crib.

Length of canals: Fourteen miles, with capacities greater than 300 second feet; 80 miles, with capacities between 300 and 500 second feet; 800 miles with capacities less than 50 second feet.

Irrigable area: 152,000 acres. Area for which water can be supplied, season 1910, 10,000 acres.

Area irrigated, season of 1910, 1,500 acres.

Length of irrigating season, 150 days.

Character of soil of irrigable area: Ranges from heavy clay to light sandy loam.

Principal products: Grain, hay, alfalfa, apples, vegetables, small fruits and cattle.

Principal markets: Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; Butte and Anaconda, Mont.; mining and lumber towns and camps.

The irrigation plan of the Flathead project provides for the irrigation of about 150,000 acres of land in various parts of the Flathead Indian reservation, water being taken by simple diversion works from several rivers and creeks rising in the Mission mountains and the stream flow being conserved by storage in about 12 reservoirs and supplemented by pumping from Flathead river by water power. Irrigable tracts in Jocko and Mission valleys and near Polson have been selected for first development.

In a letter dated April 26, 1907, the office of Indian affairs requested that the reclamation service undertake investigations of water supply and lands to be irrigated on the Flathead Indian reservation. In July 1907, field surveys of irrigable lands and investigations of possible reservoir

sites were begun. The gauging of some of the streams from which the project might secure water was also undertaken. A report of the investigations of the season and recommendations for the beginning of work on certain parts of the project was made in November 1907. Congress by act approved April 30, 1908, appropriated \$50,000 for surveys and the beginning of construction work. Under this appropriation a general survey of the reservation was begun and plans made for the beginning of construction work on certain parts of the project.

Construction work was begun on Jocko division in the spring of 1909, and this division is now 48 per cent completed. Some work was also done during that year and the first half of 1910 on Mission, Pablo, Polson and Post divisions.

The reservation was formally opened to settlement on May 2, 1910 and a few filings have been made. Canals on the Jocko and Mission divisions were completed sufficiently to supply water to some of the lands during the season of 1910. During April and May there was little call for irrigation water, but in the month of June about 1,000 acres of hay and grain in Jocko division and 500 acres in Mission division were irrigated. Many of the crops were, however, suffering from want of water and had been injured by the delay in beginning irrigation.

Topographic surveys have been extended to cover a total of about 187,000 acres, including reservoir sites, probable canal locations and most of the irrigable lands east of the Flathead river. Location surveys have been made for canals diverting water from Crow, Big Knife and Post creeks and for distributing it over about 15,000 acres of land.

On Jocko division during 1900 canals were completed to irrigate about 5,000 acres of land, and during the early part of 1910 canals were finished to supply water to nearly 3,000 acres more. On the Mission division canals were completed in 1909 to irrigate about 5,000 acres of land and the excavation of other canals has been continued during the season of 1910. On Pablo division a steam shovel outfit has been assembled near Polson and put in operation in the excavation of the 300-second-foot canal to supply Pablo reservoir. This canal will take water from Crow creek at a distance of about 12 miles and will later be extended 12 miles farther to secure water from Post creek. On Polson division the sinking of the shaft near the intake end at Newell tunnel, begun in June, 1909, was continued until its completion in December, 1909, when the work of driving the tunnel itself was begun. On June 30, 1910, 450 linear feet of tunnel had been driven through hard limestone, the character of the rock and the use of hand drills rendering the progress slow. A powerhouse site has been graded at the west portal of the tunnel. Excavation of canals has also been in progress on this division. On Post division the construction of a canal to water about 10,000 acres of land was begun in April, 1910, and on June 30, 1910, was well advanced.

The following statement contains data relating to the principal contract in operation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910: No. 321, date April 13, 1910; contractor, Atlantic Equipment company; for steam shovel; estimated value, \$6,900; estimated earnings, June 30, 1910, \$7,160; completion due, May 20, 1910. Feature costs to June 30, 1910, Flathead project.

Headquarters: Buildings and grounds \$ 9,965.11 Telephone system 4,000.00 Total 13,965.11

Jocko division: Surveys and design 14,327.99 Canal system 48,49.40 Lateral system 11,415.03 Buildings and grounds 5,301.15 Roads and bridges 236.70 Hydrography 1,128.85 Total 78,871.12

Mission division: Survey and design 8,902.33 Canal system 17,101.84 Lateral system 3,262.47 Buildings and grounds 1,847.49 Roads and bridges 809.88 Hydrography 804.04 Total 32,228.05

Polson division: Survey and design 8,994.89 Canal system 5,588.33 Buildings and grounds 7,890.33 Roads and bridges 3,225.50 Hydrography 646.46 Storage works, survey 358.96 Newell tunnel 27,347.85 Power plant 7,081.25 Pumping station 755.12 Total 55,876.69

Little Bitter Root division: Survey and design 2,627.11 Canal system 469.61 Post division: Survey and design 22,608.74 Canal survey 9,181.68 Lateral system 1,413.90 Hydrography 387.32 Storage works (reservoir) preliminary work 535.61 Bridges and roads preliminary expense 18.72 Total 34,140.95

Crow division: Survey and design 7,819.11 Pablo division 25,559.97 Canal system 2,901.37 Feeder canal 1,337.19 Flathead camp construction 131.09 Total 32,228.05

Inventory of unused supplies 2,460.99

Grand total building cost \$225,297.21

Dixon and Moise Valley.

Charles E. Randels and Irby H. Clark went to Ronan on business Monday.

Kurtis Zentner of Oshkosh, Wisconsin who has been visiting his aunt Mrs. A. J. Davenport the past month, left for Missoula Friday and will go to Hamilton to visit other relatives.

Miss Naida L. Curtis of Dixon visited Miss Pess Austin in this valley Saturday and Sunday.

Marion Handy and Harry Lyon returned to their claims eight miles north of Dixon Friday. Mr. Handy purchased an excellent team at Stevensville and drove them back.

Nels Marten of Great Falls returned to his claim Friday from a business trip to Missoula.

Miss Helen Whitaker visited at her home in Missoula last Sunday.

Church services were held last Sunday afternoon at the club house.

Harry Lyon left Dixon Tuesday for Stevensville where he will spend a few months.

Messrs. McGowan and Hart of Dixon were guests at the club house Saturday evening.

Willard A. Jensen of Dell, Montana arrived in Dixon Friday and visited a few days at the Geiger claim.

The regular monthly meeting of the Moiese Valley Club will be held Friday evening April 7th at the club house and all members are urged to be present. Following the adjournment of the club meeting the Settlers' Association will hold its monthly business meeting.

John G. Walman and brother G. Walman whose claims are south of Ronan street Saturday evening at the club house.

One of the most successful social affairs of Moiese valley was the April first dance given Saturday evening under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Blackmon. Miss Harriette P. Geiger, H. E. Fullerton and Earl Schoorover. The club house was artistically decorated for the occasion and the usual good music furnished by A. J. Davenport and wife was enjoyed by all

present. Supper was served by the committee at midnight to sixty five guests. Besides club members there was an excellent attendance from the surrounding towns. A party from St. Ignatius drove over and consisted of Miss Helen McCrackin, Mr. and Mrs. McLesser; Messrs. Sperry, Parso, Hill and Cushing.

The agricultural exhibit car arrived in Dixon Friday afternoon and was greeted by many people from the surrounding country. The exhibit and lectures were enjoyed by the excellent attendance.

## Roosevelt Day in Missoula

Two hundred Indians in full regalia and 50 cowboys in splendid equipment from the Flathead reservation, together with a detachment from the 14th regiment from Fort Missoula, the Spanish War Veterans, mounted police, the band and a reception committee of fifty prominent citizens from Missoula and Western Montana will greet Teddy Roosevelt in splendid fashion when he arrives at Missoula on Tuesday April 11th at 7 a. m. to spend the day. A general holiday has been declared in the Garden City for this event and excursions run from all parts of the state; fully five thousand strangers are expected from the many valleys tributary to Missoula. After being escorted to the hotel Mr. Roosevelt will breakfast in private and at 10:30 accompanied by a huge spectacular parade will be guided to the state University where he will be greeted by 3000 school children on the campus. At 11 he will make a short talk to the children and then deliver an address in the lecture room. At 2:30 in the afternoon his principal speech will be given from a special stand in the heart of the city, after which Mr. Roosevelt will be taken for a pleasurable auto ride winding up at Fort Missoula where a stand up lunch will be served at the Major's headquarters. At 9 an elaborate banquet will be served at the Lawrence Hotel, plates being laid for 100; the tickets are ten dollars each but already they have been eagerly sought for by those anxious to see the energetic hunter devour all the delicacies of the season and talk of the living topics of the day.

The Civil Engineers' Society, the organization of the students of that department in the Montana State College, have undertaken an important and unique enterprise this year in the form of the publication of an Engineering Annual, the purpose of which is to give along with information about the work of the college in civil engineering, a number of papers on engineering subjects by the alumni and former students of the department. The papers written by the alumni show first the sort of work in which they are engaged; and second, the kind of work for which the course here trains them. Some of the papers are technical, and all are intended primarily to appeal to men interested in civil engineering in Montana, and in engineering education. The pamphlet will have about a hundred pages, with twenty pages of cuts, and is expected to be ready for distribution about May 1. At the beginning are two articles by faculty members of this department. The titles and the names of the contributors are as follows: Prof. Kneale—Civil Engineering at Montana State College; Prof. Snow—A Method of Determining End Areas for Earth Excavation and a Method of Setting Slope Stakes; E. D. Kinney, '07—Economic Rail Location; J. G. Locke, '08—Some Needed Irrigation Reforms in Montana; J. S. James, '09—Relation of Reclamation Engineer to the Farmer; T. F. Edwards, '0—Harbor Survey at Polson; C. C. Widner, '08—Orchard Irrigation in Western Montana; W. L. Freeman, Stream Flow Records as Related to Power and Irrigation Development; F. C. Bird, ex '08 Drops for Irrigation Canals.

## Winter Wheat has Come Through in Fine Shape

The winter wheat is in fine condition. That is the report received from every source. Many farmers were interviewed during the past week and each and every one of them have the same story to tell. It was an exceptional winter for fall wheat, as it froze up and stayed frozen during the entire period when a thaw would have occasioned considerable damage. Some snow fell that stayed on during most of the winter and served to protect the grain from the elements which would destroy the roots. With such an increase in the acreage this year over last as there is, the yield in the Mission valley will be many thousands of bushels more this year than last.

Not only will there be an increased acreage in the fall wheat to harvest, but the hard spring wheat to be sown will also show a large increase over last year. All the new settlers will have in some spring wheat and the lessees will sow many more acres this year than last. Some of them were beginners last year and while they had in considerable grain it will be as nothing compared with this year. During 1910 the entire available lands for homesteading was vacant so

## MISSION MESSAGES.

Bert Shead and wife spent the week end in Missoula and Arlee.

D. H. King has relinquished his claim and with his wife has returned to Missoula.

C. E. Beckwith of Missoula is visiting with his brother, Geo. Beckwith and family this week.

Mrs. Lucy Joseph Standing Bear, wife of the late Judge Joseph Standing Bear, died suddenly Friday morning. Death was caused by a hemorrhage of the lungs. The funeral took place from the Catholic church at 2:30 Saturday afternoon.

B. F. Stewart a mining engineer from Missoula is in St. Ignatius in the interests of a mining company recently formed here. He reports that the prospect on which he is working gives indications of producing valuable ore in paying quantities.

J. W. Dressel and J. G. Hoffman of Missoula have purchased lot 4 of block 10 and announce their intention of building thereon a pool hall with a restaurant in connection. These gentlemen spent some time looking for a good business location and think the possibilities of St. Ignatius unequalled.

The citizens of St. Ignatius met at the public school house last Saturday evening and organized the Mission Development club. The constitution and by-laws were read and adopted by the club and plans for carrying out the work of the association for the coming year were discussed.

Several new men have been added to the U. S. R. S. forces this week. Mr. Colville of Fort Yellowstone has been appointed assistant engineer on the Flathead project. Mr. Pendergast has been assigned the position recently resigned by A. J. Fisk. Mr. Reed comes as special fiscal agent and Mr. Davis as ditch rider.

We of St. Ignatius who have witnessed the evolution of the public school from a 24x28 tent with benches as seats and to work with the simplest and crudest of school equipment, to the present modern furnished and equipped building, well heated and lighted, can not fail to appreciate that we are greatly indebted to the former trustee, A. B. Beckwith, whose untiring zeal and unremitting energy did so much to facilitate the present conditions.

The new steam shovel for the Flathead project has arrived at Ravalli. It is a Bucyrus costing about \$6500 and will be used in digging the feeder canals from Post creek to the Ninepipe reser-

voir. This will insure the Big Prairie having plenty of water for irrigation purposes this season. The officials of the reclamation service deserve great praise for the efficient manner in which the ditches are being built and the efforts made to supply as many of the homesteaders with water as soon as possible. It might be well for the knocking element so prevalent to keep still about this time next year and endeavor in every way possible to help the service.

Saturday afternoon, April 1st, the election of school trustees for District 28 was held at the public school house. An entire board consisting of 5 members was elected. They are John Innes of Arlee and W. H. Sabin of St. Ignatius for the three year term, James Grant of Ronan and C. E. Ripley of Ravalli for the two year term and Miss Harriett P. Geiger of Moiese valley for the one year term. Some of the members are newcomers on the reservation but they are all vitally interested on the school question. Much regret is expressed that all the members of the old board refused to run again. It is felt that their experience would have been very valuable in building up the schools in the future.

The college band from the Agricultural college is to make a tour to the central part of the state next month giving concerts the purpose of which is to interest the high school students of the state in the college and its work. The band charges nothing for its services so that the concert will cost the high school nothing, and proceeds of the concert where admission is charged, will go to the high school fund. The towns to be visited are Butte, April 17; Dillon, April 18; Anaconda, April 19; Great Falls, April 20; Helena, April 21; Townsend, April 22. The band leaves Bozeman on the morning of April 17, in a private car which will be used for the entire trip. The expenses are paid by the band out of money earned by them in concerts in Bozeman, and by playing on various public occasions. The membership of the band is about forty, and it is one of the strongest musical organizations in the state. It has been in continuous practice for five years, and this is its fourth trip over the state. The leader is Louis L. Howard, who has many friends and acquaintances throughout Montana.

The snow of the first of this week was better than a rain for the wheat and every indication is that 1911 will be a banner year.

Majestic steel range with reservoir for sale; almost new. Apply at Ronan Cafe.