

FOURTEENTH NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONGRESS

A Trip to the Irrigation Congress at Boise City, Idaho, as Seen By Our Delegates.

Boise, the beautiful, the capital city of Idaho, was the city honored with entertaining the Fourteenth National Irrigation Congress. Boise is one of the cleanest most compact and most beautiful cities of its size in the United States and the people of that city did themselves proud in their hospitality and in the thorough and effective methods of entertaining the delegates.

Thirty states and territories were represented and while North Dakota as a state has but little irrigable land yet it was represented by five delegates, viz: Hon. A. L. Fellows of Bismarck, our state engineer, Mr. T. Belseker of Fessenden, Messrs. John Bruegger, R. M. Calderwood and E. R. Brownson of Williston.

The work accomplished by former Irrigation congresses has spread the idea of irrigation very rapidly and their work has been most thorough and effective.

There are three acts which provide for the reclaiming of arid lands and all of these have been intended for the semi arid west. The first was the Desert Land Law, with which we are familiar and which has accomplished much good for the country by demonstrating the usefulness of water.

The next is the Cary Act which enables States to be a factor in the development of large tracts of land within its own borders. The Cary Act, while it has been a most useful one, has had certain drawbacks in that the states could not well unite in carrying out the irrigation of a large tract of land which lay within the borders of two or more states. It also has the drawback of requiring the aid of corporations to furnish the means for developing projects.

The third law which is the outgrowth of the other two, is the reclamation Act passed by congress on June 17, 1902, by which the government completes the construction of the irrigation works for a large tract of land and then allows the owners of the land to pay for it on the installment plan and when payment is completed, turns over the management of the system to a water user's association. We are familiar with the deserted land method of irrigation and the project at Williston, will demonstrate the method of irrigation by the

reclamation act but thus far, no one has undertaken to carry out the provisions of the Cary act in this state.

The Fourteenth Irrigation congress opened at Boise, September 3rd. The first day was given over largely to addresses and among the notable men present, was Vice President Fairbanks who delivered a very forceful address. President Roosevelt sent a message to the congress commending the work already accomplished and making valuable suggestions, which was read and heartily applauded. The remaining three days of the congress were devoted to the discussion of all the phases bearing upon irrigation. One of the most important subjects was that of water rights. Several states have entered into litigation over the right to the use of the waters of certain streams. This same difficulty has arisen between the United States and Canada and the question was thoroughly discussed as to whether or not the water right law, should be made a national one. This does not affect our projects in Williams county for the Missouri river furnishes all the water necessary for our use as well as supplying a sufficient amount for any and all projects located between ours and the head waters of this river.

For Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Idaho, California, Arizona and Oregon, the problem confronting them as to a priority of water rights is a very serious one and will ultimately require national legislation. The various methods of irrigation land, the conservation of moisture and the excessive use of water, were other subjects of vital interest to every person tilling irrigated lands. Another branch, one which has been given much attention at previous congresses, was that of the Forest Reserve. The president has recently withdrawn large tracts of land in various states with a view either of re-foresting them or protecting the forests that have already grown thereon. Much bitterness and opposition was shown to his line of procedure on the part of the president as it was held by certain speakers that the forests were not protected in the least, but were leased to the stockmen who were just as careless after the forests had been reserved as before and the withdrawing of this land from homestead

entry, was a great drawback both to the settler and to the development of the state. Probably one of the most useful as well as entertaining features of the congress was the excursion given by the combined efforts of the railroads, the people of Boise and the residents of several large irrigation districts. This excursion left Boise at ten o'clock Thursday evening with a train of ten coaches containing probably 500 or more delegates. The party was taken to Mampa and from there, east over the Oregon short line to the Minidoka Project which is being constructed by the United States Reclamation Service. The train passed thru this project shortly after eight o'clock Friday morning. Only a small part of the dam was discernible from the train, but miles and miles of canals could be seen in all directions, some of them paralleling the railroad track. The settlers shanty, nesting among the sage brush, could be seen in any direction. New towns were springing up and it seemed to one not accustomed to valuing sage brush that the country was a desolate waste. Later, experience taught us that when water is turned on to the sage brush soil, which is a lava formation, it becomes most productive. The Minidoka project will not be ready for water except in parts, before the latter part of 1907.

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In another hour, we were at the Milner Dam which is one of the finest pieces of engineering work in the United States. This dam is built across the Snake River and diverts the water from the Snake river into the large canal which furnishes water for the Twin Falls Project. After examining the dam, the train hurried on to Twin Falls which is more than twenty miles from the Milner dam. The Twin Falls Project is located in the Southern part of Idaho and has been constructed under the Cary Act.

Twin Falls City is but eighteen months old but it already has a population of at least 2,000, with city water works and electric lights already established. They day of our arrival the county was holding a fair and the products of the soil of all manner and description were displayed. Some of the farms had been tilled two seasons, other, only one, but in the eighteen months, 30,000 acres has come under cultivation. The displays at this fair were most remarkable and it thoroughly convinced us that irrigation could reclaim the sage brush flats of the Twin Falls Project, it certainly could of the Minidoka Project which is to derive its waters for the same source, the Snake River and is a part of the same Valley. The method of irrigation in the Twin Falls Project is known as corrugated irrigations. After the land is leveled, and the crops are sown, the farmer rolls his land with

a heavy roller on which are placed heavy ditch makers about three feet apart. As the land is rolled, these projections press and series of diamond shaped furrows cross the field. From the main lateral ditch water is let into these furrows and the land instead of being flooded, is irrigated thru them. It has been learned by experience that better results are obtained in the Twin Falls country by this method of irrigating than by flooding. This is also a saving method, as a more economical and thorough use of the water is obtained. The people of Twin Falls, are most enthusiastic and the entire country turned out and furnished teams to convey the 500 delegates from the city of Twin Falls to Shoshone Falls a distance of about six miles, where we beheld one of the most beautiful of water falls and also examined the power house which is furnishing electricity for the lighting of not only the residences of Twin Falls, but of the surrounding country. From Shoshone Falls, we were driven to blue lakes, a distance of about five miles down the Snake river. Here we were treated to everything in the fruit line grown on the fruit farm at a Mr. Perrine. Water melon, cantaloupe, peaches, plums, pears and apples were dished out to the hungry horde in quantities that made us faint for lack of capacity to carry away all that our imagination led us to believe we should have. This fruit farm is in the valley of the Snake river and is planted among gigantic boulders and in a most stony soil and still it has been producing for nearly twenty years. The growth of fruit here, indicates that the entire Twin Falls tract will soon be one of the largest and most successful fruit growing regions of Idaho. From Blue Lakes we were taken back to Twin Falls which city we left at seven o'clock that evening. There was one feature that marred the trip, and that was the endless circulation of dust. During the harvest season when the water is not in use, the land becomes very dry and mellow in the roads and as a result a most annoying quantity of dust is consumed daily.

Leaving Twin Falls the party passed over the Oregon Short Line to Pocatello, and from thence north to Marysville which is located about twenty miles west of the Yellowstone National Park. We arrived at Marysville at about seven in the morning. After a short examination of this country, which is, by the way, more like our project here at Williston than any other we say on our trip, we were taken to St. Anthony where we were met by a brass band and a sufficient number of teams to convey us all to the city about half a mile distant, where we were treated to a free chicken breakfast. After breakfast, we were taken to the west of St. Anthony and shown vast fields of su-

gar beets. This district is known as the sub-irrigation district. The soil which is sandy and varies from a depth of 15 to 40 feet on a rock hard pan. When the people first began to irrigate here they did as others do; i. e., flooded the land. Very poor results were obtained by this method and it was thought that this valley was wholly worthless even with irrigation but after a few years the soil became saturated with water and now immense crops of every thing are raised without flooding the land at all, but by simply allowing the water to run thru the main canals and sweep down into the sandy soil until it is saturated. This is called sub-irrigation and there are but two or three other places in the United States where this method of irrigation is employed.

From St. Anthony we were taken by rail to Sugar City, given another free lunch, free ride and shown thru the largest sugar beet factory in the world. The next stop was at Rexburg, a most attractive and thriving city in the very heart of a large, thoroughly irrigated valley, we were again conveyed free of charge, thru-out the district, given a banquet at which the governors of various state and other high officials gave toasts, which were responded to by local talent. After this most enjoyable repast, we boarded the train for Pocatello arriving there about eight o'clock in the evening. Here the excursion ended. The forty eight hours spent sight seeing and feasting, made a most complete and satisfactory ending of the Irrigation congress.

After reviewing the methods, soils, climates and peculiar features of the seven or eight irrigation projects, the Dakota delegation are more thoroughly convinced than ever, that the Williston Project will be a splendid success. There is no reason why our land should not be as productive and as valuable as they are in other localities similarly situated. It is true, that we will not be able to raise all the fruits that they can in Southern Idaho, but with a proper study of the plant life adapted to our soil and climate, we can grow an abundance of the more hardy varieties of fruits, besides all varieties of small grains and sugar beets in abundance, and we venture to predict that the lands under the irrigation projects in western North Dakota which are now selling for from twelve to twenty dollars per acre, when actually under irrigation, and ready buyers at the same prices that land is selling for under the various projects we visited, viz: from one hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars per day.

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WHY WILLISTON LEADS.

(Continued from page 1.)

names appear elsewhere in this issue have our cordial endorsement and should be given consideration by all who contemplate making investments in this part of the state. Because of the many choice bargains they have on hand at all times, it is hardly possible to make a mistake if you intrust your business to their care and there need be no anxiety regarding desirable locations for factories or homes, and investors unacquainted with Williams county will be surprised at the reasonable prices that prevail.

Churches and Educational Institutions.

In this respect Williston is surely richly endowed for, taking the strength of structure together with the beauty of design and architectural finish of our buildings, few states can even reach our level, far less surpass us.

Our Professions.

Our professions which consist of every branch known to the civilized world are represented by men of talent, understanding and enterprise; to them is our town to a great extent indebted for her remarkable growth and expansion and may they ever meet with favor and success.

\$150,000 IN BUILDINGS.

(Continued from page 1.)

S. Boyd, livery stable	600
Wegley elevator	3,200
Steam Laundry	2,500
Bottling Works	2,500
N. A. Stewart block	4,200
Emil Nelson	700
Model Meat Market	2,500
Williston Lumber Co.	800
Kassiss Bros Brick block	4,500
D. C. Page, office	350
T. S. Becker, office	450
J. Shikny, store	4,000
D. Bell	6,000
W. B. Overson, office	1,200

Total	\$66,200
Residence houses	\$79,700
Grand Total	\$145,900

THE HOTEL COLUMBIA.

Mr. J. H. Gustafson, Prop. The Columbia is of Williston's leading hotels and Mr. J. H. Gustafson is doing exceptionally well. His rooms are each and all neatly furnished and the place throughout bears a home-like appearance that makes one feel at ease immediately on crossing the threshold. The dining room is elegantly and tastefully furnished and everything is done to cater to the slightest desire of the most fastidious guest. Mr. Gustafson is a gentleman who deserves the success he is meeting with and we predict for him a bright future as the town grows.

W. B. Overson, President

Joseph W. Jackson, Vice-President

R. M. Calderwood, Treasurer

E. R. Brownson, Secretary

E. G. Greenub, Manager

WILLISTON LAND COMPANY

INCORPORATED

THE FIRST LAND COMPANY ORGANIZED IN WILLIAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

All the members of this Company have lived in Williams County for a great many years. They have seen it grow and develop from a raw stock country to an up-to-date farming community. They have taken an active part in this upbuilding and their labors, together with the efforts of others, have brought it about. Knowing that the results would be what they are now, the

Williston Land Company Spent Money Freely

inducing farmers from the central and eastern states to come to Williams County and open up farms and homes. The Company has yet to learn of one who, after making an honest effort, is dissatisfied with his lot. Many of these settlers have paid for their farms in one and two year crops. Many of them have money in the bank.

We own thousands of acres of fertile agricultural lands and will sell it at prices that will enable you to do the same. WE ARE RELIABLE.

The responsibility of our stockholders is \$50,000.00 and insures you a fair, square deal.

We work for the interests of North Dakota, Williams county, and Williston and are willing to work for your interests. We are thoroughly equipped to handle any and all lines of our business.

We offer for sale some of the best farms in Williams county, farms with minor improvements, unimproved farms.

If irrigated lands are wanted we have thousands of acres for sale under the United States Government Irrigation Projects in Williams County and vicinity.

We have sold over \$50,000 worth of city property since May 1, 1906. We have bought \$25,000 worth. Our City Property Department is complete.



We have loaned \$400,000.00 and never refused to make a loan on farm or city property that we deemed safe and secure, and never lost a penny for our clients.

We are proprietors of the

Williams County Abstract Co. and McKenzie County Abstract Co.

and are the pioneer abstractors of both counties, under \$10,000 bonds. We prepare correct abstracts in the shortest possible time.

Our Legal Department handling contests, collections, conveyancing, and a general law practice is attended to by an attorney admitted to practice before the local U. S. Land Office at Williston, the Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Department of the Interior at Washington, D. C., the County, District, Supreme and United States District Court.

Our Insurance Department is in charge of an Expert Underwriter representing many of the Old Line Companies writing fire, life, tornado, plate glass, accident, health, liability, burglary, hail and farm insurance in the United States.

OUR PROPERTY, OUR INTEREST AND OUR HOMES ARE HERE AND WE ARE HERE FOR BUSINESS. (OUR HEALTH WAS GOOD BEFORE WE CAME.)

If we can be of any service to you, or if there is any information you desire relative to North Dakota, Williams county, or Williston, write us and we will gladly give it.

WILLISTON LAND COMPANY