

WORK PROGRESSES ON WEST UMATILLA PROJECT

Government in This Work is Profiting by Past Experience. All Ditches Lined With Concrete Throughout.

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Construction work on the west extension of the Umatilla irrigation project has during the year of 1915 been confined to the main canal. Last year the diversion dam was built and completed at a cost of sixty-four thousand dollars and a portion of the main canal to the extent of about seven miles was built. During the season of 1915 the work of building the canal was continued through to the present point of completion or a total distance of about twenty one miles, leaving approximately eight miles to be built, of which at least five miles will be completed, though the doubtful element of weather conditions will govern the amount of ditch to be built.



WATER FLOWING OVER DIVERSION DAM OF WEST UMATILLA PROJECT.

The type of construction work is to a marked degree an advance over the original work done in canal building on the older project. The canal under construction is lined with three inches of concrete to prevent the excessive loss of water while in transit to the irrigable area. The laterals, it is understood, will be likewise concreted and by this plan of construction the loss of water from percolation through the porous soil will be rendered a negligible factor in the distribution system of this unit.

Another feature of the west extension which is a most desirable addition to the new, over the older project, will be the growing by the reclamation service of windbreaks at certain intervals through the irrigated areas, which will prove of inestimable value to the work of development in the reclamation of these various features of the construction work of the project means a higher cost for the irrigation system than that on the older project; yet at the same time it is claimed and demonstrated that through these aids to reclamation of lands of this character, the cost of reclamation will be reduced both in money and time to the settlers.

As to the development of the lands when the construction work shall have been completed the prospective settlers can have some facts to base their expectations upon. The narrow fringe of lands that have been irrigated lying along the old ditch, built by the Oregon Land and Water Co. and which is still in use by some land owners, who have persisted in their efforts of home building in spite of tremendous handicaps. Every prospective settler would do well to accept advice from these experienced people.

Among some of the advantages known to the factors in the successful development of these lands is their very early season and their comparative freedom from frost. The lands to be irrigated lay along the

as probabilities and not as possibilities. (The reader is cited to the dictionary for the difference in meaning of these two words as defined in any standard dictionary.)

The production of alfalfa should be and more than likely will be, the main industry in crop production on the new area to be irrigated and to consume and utilize this wonderful forage crop, dairying, hog raising and stock feeding will be the principal money getters for the new settlers.

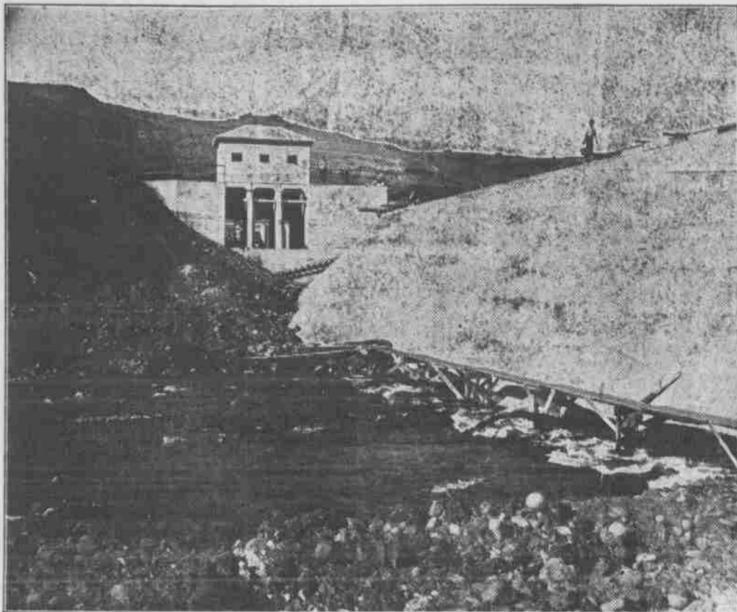
To the older residents it is apparent that in a few years the necessity of crop rotation will bring this area into a community of small diversified farms.

The facilities of this project for moving its crops to market are not exceeded by any similar community and are equaled by few. The O.-W. R. and N. Co. passing through the entire length of the project and the Columbia river with the completed Celilo canal furnishing open river navigation the entire year insures low freight rates and excellent service. The settlers of this project are within 24 hours delivery of Portland and

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great Columbia river and the air drainage is of the best in existence. The large body of water lying so close is a decided factor in warding off late frosts, which other districts, not so fortunately situated, do not possess. It is a fact that the close proximity of the Columbia river is an advantage in this respect.

As to the earliness of the season, new potatoes were ready for use in mid June, watermelons were shipped on July 25 and the first cutting of alfalfa was made May 25 and the fourth cutting was in the stack September 16. All these things were accomplished and done in the ordinary course of ranching and may be taken



DIVERSION DAM OF WEST UMATILLA PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION.

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