

Now in process of segregation and to be reclaimed:

Cedar Creek Canal Co., Cassia County.....	46,000
Platt Irrigation Co., Bear Lake County....	4,500
Mud Lake Reservoir Co., Fremont County...	12,000
Salmon River Project, Cassia County.....	140,000
Owyhee Irrigation Co., Owyhee County....	3,000
Twin Falls Pump System, Cassia County...	21,000
Grand Canyon Canal Co., Fremont County.	9,000

Total..... 235,500  
Grand total ..... 950,500

These lands vary in price with a perpetual water right, from \$15 to \$35 an acre, with a maintenance charge for water of less than \$1 per acre.

Some of the arid and semi-arid states to which this act applies have not taken advantage of it at all, few have done much under it, and none excepting Idaho have approached the limit.

There is no field more inviting to capitalists, there is no work a state administration could perform which would bring more certain and lasting benefit to their commonwealth than the encouragement of Carey Act enterprises.

The confidence with which capital views the opening of lands in irrigated regions, and the assurance with which money is invested are demonstrated by this contributory fact:

Milner is the town at the headgate of the Twin Falls North Side project, for which a sale of land was recently held at Jerome. Gooding is the town adjoining the tract now being opened by the Idaho Irrigation Company, whose first sale of lands will occur on the 14th of November. Already an electric interurban road is projected between the towns of Milner and Gooding, a distance of seventy miles. Just as the settler has no fear of his future when he buys and locates upon irrigated lands, so the capitalist has no fear of investing his money in the advanced appliances of civilization in the irrigated region.

Idaho in its legislative enactments, in the attitude of its state administrations, and in its completed projects furnishes an object lesson and an inspiration for all the arid region.

Congress, on June 17, 1902, passed the most comprehensive and far-reaching of all irrigation laws.

Congress, in line with the unbroken policy of the Government to promote home-building, was anxious to aid in reclaiming all arid land susceptible of reclamation. Nearly every representative in Congress from the arid states had some plan which he was pushing. His bill was drawn with more or less reference to his local surroundings. What was good for Idaho did not fulfill the requirements of Arizona, and California could not be satisfied with a law which exactly suited Nevada.

Congress did not want to pass a number of individual acts, and all proposed legislation by Western representatives had met with opposition from other Western representatives. Congress was willing and anxious to act, but was confused. Some few powerful interests and individuals took advantage of this lack of unity among Western representatives and easily prevented legislation on a broad and comprehensive plan. This was the situation when Congress assembled on the first Monday in December, 1901. On that first day of the assembling of Congress in December, 1901, the Senators, Representatives and delegates from seventeen states and territories, representing the entire arid and semi-arid belt, met in conference and appointed a committee of seventeen, one from each state and territory, to frame a general irrigation law. The demands and necessities of the different states and territories were so at variance that it required the utmost patience, liberality and yielding of views on the part of all to harmonize the conflicting interests.

Finally, however, the committee submitted the results of its labor (which with few changes is the present act) to all the representatives from the seventeen states and territories. It was promptly ratified by them, and with this powerful force behind the measure, it passed Congress and became a law without much difficulty.

The law fully explains the intention of the general Government and is clear and explicit. By its provisions all of the money derived from the sale of public lands is set apart—after deducting the expenses necessary to maintain the United States Land Offices—and is to be used by the Secretary of the Interior to build reservoirs and canals to reclaim desert lands which are too difficult and too costly for private capital to reclaim.

The lands under the canals constructed by the Government are to be taken up by the settlers under easy conditions. The laws of the respective states and territories are to be in full force as to the use and distribution of the waters, and canals are to be turned over to the settlers when certain stipulations are complied with. The reservoirs and works necessary for their protection and their management and operation remain the possession of the Government until the Government itself, by specific act of Congress, shall otherwise provide.

The settled policy of Congress to stimulate private enterprise in the development of arid wastes is not changed by this act. It is not the design of the Government to store flood waters or appropriate streams which are necessary for the successful carrying on of irrigation works already constructed by individual or corporate effort, but it was contemplated that the work done by private parties should be supplemented through Government aid.

For illustration: All the waters of Boise River have been appropriated. A vast amount of flood water which now runs to waste is being stored through a system of reservoirs at or near the source of the stream. This impounded water will be used in reclaiming vast tracts of land along the Boise River which cannot be reached by the natural flow of the stream. The water rights already acquired along the river will of course be respected and strengthened.

The design of the law is to charge enough for the lands irrigated under the act to pay for the cost of the construction of the work, and this fund is to be used in other projects. The fund is thus made a perpetual one and will be utilized until all lands susceptible of irrigation are irrigated.

Under this act land shall be subject to entry only under the provision of the homestead law, the commutation clause being limited, and in tracts of not less than forty or more than 160 acres; and the right to the use of water for land thus entered shall not be sold to any one land owner for a tract exceeding 160 acres.

There have been three withdrawals of land in Idaho under the National Reclamation Act. Under the Minidoka project, Cassia and Lincoln Counties, 455,000 acres; Payette-Boise project, Ada and Canyon Counties, 735,000 acres; Dubois project, Fremont County, 564,000 acres. Of these lands there will be redeemed when work now being carried on by the Government is completed: On Minidoka project, 130,000 acres; on Payette-Boise project, 372,000 acres. The Government has appropriated: For Minidoka project, \$1,889,000; for Payette-Boise project, \$2,060,000.

There has been placed in the national reclamation fund in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000 derived from the sale of public lands, and all of this is being used in various enterprises, and millions of dollars in addition will be required to complete the work already commenced. No project has as yet commenced to repay the Government for the cost of construction. The Government works have been laid on broad foundations. They are permanent and enduring. All the money derived from the sale of public lands, and which will come into the reclamation fund for several years to come, is needed for the completion of work already begun. Within a few years, however, and just as fast as the projects now being redeemed are completed, the cost of those projects will begin its return to the fund, and other new projects will then be safely inaugurated. The act has been sufficiently tested, and the various projects under it carried on successfully to the point of demonstrating its great value and practicability.

A brief statement of various projects will show the national character of the act, and make plain what a tremendous factor it is in the building of homes in the arid region.

The Salt River project will cover about 160,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Phoenix and Mesa, Arizona, and will be completed in 1909. The lands in the project are mostly in private ownership.

The Yuma project will irrigate 84,000 acres of land in Arizona and 17,000 acres in California.

The Uncompahgre Valley project will reclaim 150,000 acres of land in Delta and Montrose Counties, Colorado. This work will be completed in 1909.

Garden City project will irrigate 8600 acres in Southwestern Kansas. The land is all in private ownership and is under an existing irrigation system. This work is practically completed.

The Huntley project reclaims 30,000 acres of land in Southeastern Montana, and is completed.

The Sun River project involves the ultimate reclamation of 256,000 acres tributary to Sun River, Montana, nearly all of which is public land. Water will be available to irrigate a portion of it in the spring of 1909.

The Milk River project will ultimately reclaim 250,000 acres in the Milk River Valley, Montana.

North Platte project will supply water to 200,000 acres in Wyoming and 200,000 acres in Nebraska.

The Truckee-Carson project will irrigate 350,000 acres of public land in Western Nevada. Water is now ready for delivery to 50,000 acres.

The Rio Grande project will irrigate 180,000 acres in New Mexico, Texas and Mexico.

The Carlsbad project will redeem 20,000 acres on Pecos River, Eddy County, New Mexico. The land is mostly in private ownership. The work is practically completed.

The Hondo project will irrigate 10,000 acres near Roswell, New Mexico.

The Lower Yellowstone project will irrigate 66,000 acres in Northeastern Montana and Northwestern North Dakota, now owned about equally by the Government, the Northern Pacific Railroad and individuals.

Three pumping projects are contemplated in Western North Dakota, which will reclaim in the neighborhood of 40,000 acres.

The Klamath project will irrigate 190,000 acres in Klamath County, Oregon, and Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, California.

The Umatilla project embraces 20,000 acres immediately south of Columbia River and east of Umatilla River, Oregon.

The Belle Fourche project will reclaim about 100,000 acres north and east of the Black Hills in Butte and Meade Counties, South Dakota.

The Strawberry Valley project provides for the irrigation of 60,000 acres in Central Utah, near Provo.

The Okanogan project will supply water for 8650 acres in Okanogan Valley, Northern Washington.

The Yakima Valley project contemplates the irrigation eventually, under a comprehensive system, of 340,000 acres in the Yakima Valley, Washington.

The Shoshone project when completed will irrigate 150,000 acres of public land; 120,000 acres on the north side of the Shoshone River and 30,000 acres on the south side, all being in Wyoming and about seventy-five miles east of the Yellowstone National Park. The project will be pretty well completed in 1909.

For most of these projects water must be stored, and sometimes carried many miles in large canals before it is diverted to the land. Sometimes miles of expensive tunneling through mountains must be done. In nearly every project adjustment must be made with individuals who have acquired rights.

Indian lands, some ceded, and some still belonging to the Indians, are a necessary part of some of the projects.

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This brief and most cursory reference to the various projects will call attention to the obstacles, the perplexities, and the varied conflicting interests