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IRRIGATION.

Nevada's Fertile Vallies Will be Made Garden Spots by Government Storage System of Surplus Water.

Nevada's ancient inland sea is known as Lake La Hontan; it was one of several great pre-historic lakes distributed over the Great Basin of the arid region, among them Lake Bonneville of which the Great Salt Lake was the deepest portion. Its area was nine times greater than the Great Salt, or almost as large as Lake Michigan and much deeper.

The contracted remains of Lake La Hontan in Nevada are found in Pyramid Lake and a number of other small inclosed lakes which were the deepest portions of the ancient lake. Since these large pre-historic lakes were landlocked and did not overflow, it follows that the rainfall which fed them was much heavier than it is today.

DROWNING OUT THE MORMONS.

Should conditions revert, many of the important points situated in the Great Basin would be hopelessly flooded, such for instance as the Mormon Temple, which would stand in 850 feet of water, and 700 miles of railroad would be submerged.

These pre-historic lakes are said to be of very recent origin—that is recent by the geologist's count—perhaps 30,000 or 40,000 years old. Fossils have been found showing the presence of primitive man along their ancient shores and embankments, which in many instances, are as perfect in contour and as distinct as if the waters had receded only a few years since. These lakes included such arid and fear inspiring localities of today as the Black Rock desert, Skull Valley and Death Valley, and a score of other places where the bleached bones of man and animal attest to an awful lack of water.

GREAT GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION WORK.

The first irrigation work of the national government, which is to

be celebrated by the turning of the water into the gigantic ditches next month, is the largest project which has been definitely outlined and approved under the irrigation act—known as the Truckee-Carson project. When completed it will involve the expenditure of approximately nine million dollars and will reclaim 350,000 acres of desert land. That portion of the system now completed consists of a canal 31 miles long to take water from the Truckee River and convey it to the Carson River, where a large storage reservoir is projected. Just below this reservoir site, the waters of the two streams will be led out upon the plains by two canals, with a combined capacity of 1,900 cubic feet per second. Some 50,000 acres are to be irrigated this Spring for which 200 miles of small distributing ditches have been dug.

The Secretary of the Interior has set aside \$2,740,000 of the "Reclamation Fund" for the initial work, and by the time this has been expended about 100,000 acres will be under canals, and the settlers will be returning in annual payments the original investment. The money thus received will be used as a revolving fund for land has been divided into farm units of 80 acres, and the cost of reclaiming will be \$26 per acre. Work is being commenced this Spring on regulating gates at the outlet of Lake Tahoe, located in California, but whose waters will be used to reclaim the fertile Nevada soil. Future plans involve the draining of Carson Sink, 25,000 acres in extent, which overflows in years of heavy rainfall, and the reclamation of lands in the upper Carson and Truckee valleys. As these large areas are gradually brought under irrigation a greater water supply will be required and nine additional reservoirs will be constructed with a combined storage capacity of over a million and a quarters acres feet. An acre foot equals one acre, one foot deep.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND GRAIN YIELD ABUNDANTLY.

The soil under this project is very fertile, and delicious fruits such as apples, pears, peaches, grapes, all the berries and vegetables produce luxuriantly. Oats, wheat, potatoes and alfalfa are the staple crops. The lands are tributary to the Southern Pacific, the Nevada, California and Oregon, and the Virginia and Truckee railroads and the recent enormous activity in gold and silver mining in Nevada insures a nearby and profitable market. At the same time the supply of food products will greatly reduce the cost of living and further stimulate mining development.

The fact that a very large portion of the lands included in this project belong to the government and have been withdrawn from speculative entry under the desert and other land laws, is a matter for congratulation.

Nevada's past history has been one of land monopoly. In fact it has been said that the State was long since stolen by land bears. In area Nevada is three times the size of Indiana, but her population is scarcely sufficient for a single small county. The popular vote of last year was but little over 12,000. The bulk of the inhabitable lands are in the hands of a few great land owners, while the opportunity for settlers and increased population has never been extensive. Nevada's land history is one which can be studied with profit by those who are searching for light on the question of proper administration of the public domain. With exception of the influx of immigration due to mining excitement, the population is at a standstill and must continue to remain so until farm lands are thrown open to settlement in small tracts through government irrigation.

STEALING AWAY THE STATE.

When the State was admitted to the Union, in place of receiving the usual donation of alternate school sections—16 and 32 in each township—she secured a flat grant from the government of two million acres of public land to be located wherever her law-makers saw fit. The State Legislature passed as much as desired of this great and valuable resource into private ownership of stockmen, at as low a figure as 25 cents an acre. These lands have been located up and down the sides of every river and stream and around every spring and water hole in the State, so that while Nevada has today some sixty million acres of public land, there is not a quarter section of it upon which a homesteader could make a living. The land granted to the State for school purposes—disposed of by the State for a mess of pottage—controls the lands of the State.

The government's irrigation, when worked out, will immediately double Nevada's population; it will provide a new life blood of settlement and citizenship for a region of unsurpassed agriculture.

This great reclamation scheme for the rebuilding of Nevada is being carried into operation by Engineer L. H. Taylor, under the supervision of Frederick H. Newell, Chief Engineer of the Reclamation Service. It will afford the first practical example of the operations of the new national irrigation law.—GUY E. MITCHELL.

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Indigestion Causes Catarrh of the Stomach.

For many years it has been supposed that Catarrh of the Stomach caused indigestion and dyspepsia, but the truth is exactly the opposite. Indigestion causes catarrh. Repeated attacks of indigestion inflame the mucous membranes lining the stomach and expose the nerves of the stomach, thus causing the glands to secrete mucin instead of the juices of natural digestion. This is called Catarrh of the Stomach.

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