

# The Advocate

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## IRRIGATION.

### THAT'S WHAT ALL THE PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

The Kansas Irrigation Association Meeting at Hutchinson Proved to Be a Great School.

The agricultural mind of the West is being diverted from the question of markets and transportation to that of raising a greater variety of products, and to getting a greater amount from less ground. This is bringing the science of land irrigation to be studied not only by farmers but those whose interests are directly connected with those of the farmers. In fact, irrigation has come to be one of the most interesting and important subjects of discussion, and is even now forcing itself into our state and national law-making departments. It long ago began to attract the attention of manufacturers of agricultural appliances, and the progress recently made by them is indeed wonderful.

The second annual convention of the Kansas Irrigation association was held in Hutchinson, Kas., November 23 and 24, and it was probably better attended and more practically conducted than other meeting of a similar nature in this or any other state. The men whose official duty it was to prepare for it have studied the subject of irrigation until they know the points about it on which information is most needed, and they have a fair idea as to where the information is to be found.

The officers of the association were: President, D. M. Frost, of Garden City; secretary, E. B. Cowgill, of Topeka; treasurer, J. F. Greenlee, of Hutchinson; vice presidents, G. W. Clements, Martin Mohler and H. V. Hinckley (consulting engineer).

Messrs. Frost, Cowgill and Hinckley, were re-elected for another year. L. A. Bigger, of Hutchinson, was elected secretary and treasurer; J. E. Frost, G. W. Clements and W. B. Sutton, were elected vice presidents.

During the two days and evenings an excellent course of lectures and short talks were delivered, touching on nearly every point concerning irrigation theories and practice. The president being absent by reason of his own sickness, his annual address was delivered by proxy.

George Q. Cannon, president of the Mormon church, presided Friday afternoon, and at night lectured on "Poverty to Independence—Mormon Progress on the Salt Lake Desert." Among the other excellent papers and speeches were the following: "Storage of Storm

Waters," William Tweedale; "Irrigation—Advantages and Errors," J. S. Sherman; "Forrestry and Irrigation," E. D. Wheeler (state forester); "Strawberries by Irrigation," B. F. Smith; "The Duties of Kansas to Herself," H. V. Hinckley; "One Year of Irrigation Agitation," E. R. Moses; "Kansas Agriculture and Irrigation," F. D. Coburn; "Duty of the Federal Government," J. L. Bristow; "State Legislation Needed," J. W. Gregory; "Homes for the Million," J. S. Emery; "Apples by Irrigation," Henry Booth; "The Irrigated Home," I. M. Pickering; "The Water Supply," E. B. Cowgill; "Pumping Machinery," Ira C. Hubbell, of Fairbanks, Morse & Co.; "Labor and Irrigation," J. F. Todd; "Practical Irrigation—How Obtained," F. M. Clarke, of Fort Worth, Tex.; "The People's Heritage," W. E. Smythe, of Irrigation Age; "Irrigation in Very Arid Regions," Governor Prince of New Mexico.

Governor Lewelling and Governor-elect Morrill were on the program for addresses, but both sent regrets at being unable to attend. The members of the association were very much in the minority when the crowd assembled. Nearly every county in the state was represented by one or more persons, and as a consequence of the deep interest taken in the movement the membership is now much larger than before. George M. Munger, of Greenwood county, and others who were there looking for information, but whose names were not on the program, answered calls to speak.

The machinery exhibit was a profitable feature of the convention, both to those who were there looking for the latest improvements in that kind of machinery and to the enterprising manufacturers who took advantage of the occasion to show a particular test of their implements. The exhibit consisted of pumps, windmills and engines, in working order on the bank of the river close to the convention hall. Some of the exhibitors drew water from wells while others drew from the channel of the river. The supply of water was not what they should have had, but it was not so scarce as to prevent them from showing the capacity of their machines. The ADVOCATE will notice these machines and their manufacturers in later issues.

#### THE INEVITABLE RESOLUTIONS.

A convention these days without resolutions would not know how to adjourn. In this case the demands and declarations adopted are of considerable interest since they are likely to be heard from again in both the state and national legislatures. They are as follows:

The Kansas State Irrigation association in convention assembled submits for the consideration of all concerned, the following:

Section 1. We hail with satisfaction the

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## AVOID EXPERIMENTS,

### SAYS THE POSTMASTER GENERAL IN HIS LAST REPORT.

The Old Way Is Good Enough For Him. Opposed to Free Delivery in Rural Districts.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—Postmaster General W. S. Bissell has submitted to the president his annual report for the year ending June 30. He briefly outlines the policy in the department in the following:

"In general I would recommend that the first and most important thing to be done is to revise the law as to second-class matter so as to place the postoffice department immediately upon a self-sustaining basis.

"Second—Avoid expensive experiments like the postal telegraph, rural free delivery, etc.

"Third—Develop the postal service on existing lines of administration, viz: Extend free delivery in cities that now enjoy it, accord it to towns already entitled to it under the law, quicken railroad transportation.

"Fourth—Revise and reclassify organization of the railway mail service and reclassify clerks in postoffices.

"Fifth—Provide for district supervision of all postal affairs by appointment of expert postal officials from classified service, as recommended in my last annual report."

Mr. Bissell first discusses the effect of continued depression upon the postal revenues and says: "When adverse business conditions prevail an ordinary business establishment may overcome them in part by economies of management and retrenchment in expenditures. Not so, however, with the postoffice establishment of the government. It can not and should not stop to consider little economies. Its duties and obligations to the public become at once intensified and enlarged. The revenue for the year was \$75,080,479; expenditures \$84,324,414, leaving a deficit of \$9,243,935. The estimates for the current year ending June 30, 1895, are: Revenue, \$84,427,748; expenditures, \$90,399,485; deficiency, \$5,971,737. The estimates submitted to the secretary of the treasury for the next fiscal year are: Revenue, \$86,907,407; expenditures, \$91,059,283; deficiency, \$4,151,876. "This annual deficiency," the postmaster general says, "could be overcome by the increase of postal rates, but he does not believe this advisable. Economy has been practiced, but nevertheless, great care has been taken that it should not affect the efficiency of the service. The economies have consisted mainly in re-letting con-

tracts for mail and transportation, and in the cost and amount of supplies; also in the abrogation of seven of the eleven steamship subsidy contracts which will mean a total saving in the ten years of the contracts' life of \$14,431,325."

Mr. Bissell recommends the experimental free delivery projects should be discontinued and thinks that free delivery in rural districts is not needed or desired by the people. Both of these projects were originated by his predecessor. He refers to the war made by the department on lottery schemes passing under the name "bond investment companies" and says it has been waged successfully. He recommends the enactment of laws covered in bills now pending before congress for the further suppression of lotteries.

The Postmaster General does not favor the postal telegraph, a system advocated by his predecessor. The conditions in this country, he says, are such as would enormously increase the large deficit. He takes as example the system in Great Britain, which is a comparatively small territory, and shows that the postal telegraph entails a total annual loss of about 2 million dollars. He points out that in a country where the territory is so large the cost of a postal telegraph would far exceed any possible receipts or benefits.

Mr. Bissell gives the following daily average business of the department, which shows the vastness of the postal service:

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|--|-------------|
| Number of miles of post route run  | 1,100,000   |
| Number of stamps manufactured  | 5,300,000   |
| Number of envelopes manufactured   | 1,800,000   |
| Number of postal cards manufactured  | 1,500,000   |
| Number of pieces mailed  | 15,700,000  |
| Number of letters mailed   | 7,400,000   |
| Number of pieces of mail matter distributed and redistributed by railway postal clerks | 27,500,000  |
| Number of pieces handled in dead letter office   | 24,000      |
| Daily transactions in money order business   | \$1,500,000 |
| Daily expenses   | 231,000     |

The postmaster general believes in civil service in the postoffice department. He says: "If the system has produced such good results in the clerical force of the department, it is reasonable to inquire whether something like it could not be applied with advantage to the lower grades of postmasters."

#### That Iniquitous Bond Business.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—In conformity with his circular, dated November 13, 1894, the secretary of the treasury today opened the bids which had been submitted for a new bond issue of 50 million dollars United States 5 per cent. bonds, to bear date of November 1, 1894, and redeemable in coin at the pleasure of the government after ten years from the date of issue. This action of the secretary is taken under the authority contained in the act of congress, approved January 14, 1875, entitled "An act to

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