

MUCH HEAVY WORK AHEAD OF THE BARD COST REVIEW BOARD

(By Benjamin Franklin Fly)

The local board of cost review was in "executive session" all day yesterday, and 'making satisfactory progress' as expressed by Chairman Fleming; but just what the "progress" was I am unable to say, further than the fact that most of the time was consumed in discussion relating to "operation and maintenance," which still holds the right-of-way on the program.

It was discussed again today, during which time Manager Kelly, of the irrigation system, was on the witness stand, he having returned from his vacation trip especially for that purpose.

Tomorrow and Monday it is understood that "not less than 6 nor more than 12" water users from Bard will be placed on the stand to tell what they know about "operation and maintenance," after which the board will proceed to the consideration of other matters — "irrigable area" or "drainage" probably being next in order.

When I arrived at the board's headquarters at 5 o'clock last evening, the door had just been thrown open.

Chairman Fleming, Mr. Teasdale and Mr. Baldwin had just begun reading, for the purpose of correction, the two days' transcript of proceeding that were some time ago voted to be sent to Secretary Lane and Dr. Elwood Mead. There are ONLY 180 pages, or 45,000 words, or, showing a rate of 22,500 words per day, which, if kept up for the 30 days suggested by Secretary Lane, would make 675,000, or the equivalent of about six volumes as large as the Holy Bible!

The transcript will be finished today and sent on its way rejoicing to Washington, where Secretary Lane will "closely scrutinize" Chairman Fleming's "plan of procedure."

Mr. Teasdale's objections to it, and Judge Holgate's opinion on the subject, and then throw all the balance of the 45,000 useless words in the waste basket, with the possible admonition to the board to "go, thou and sin no more!" I would anyway.

After the board adjourned for the day at 7 o'clock I asked Chairman Fleming if they had yet made up their minds as to the questions that would be considered while awaiting a reply from Secretary Lane, but before he could answer, Mr. Teasdale handed me a slip of paper, with the remark:

"Here are some of the questions I will bring before the board:"

The slip of paper contained the fol-

lowing in the order they are printed:

Indian payments.
Irrigable area (mesa.)
Town sites.
Drainage.
School lands in irrigable area.
River front protection.
Telephone system.
S. P. contract on levee.
Expert form.
Laguna dam.
Phases of law pertaining to dam.
Some of these are certainly live and pertinent questions and deserve the fullest consideration of the board; in fact Chairman Fleming long ago offered his "plan of procedure" which embraced "irrigable area," "drainage," "river front protection," and the "dam Laguna," so he and Mr. Teasdale are fully agreed as to those important features; but they have not reached an agreement on the question as to whether it lies within the province of the board to consider "Indian payments," "town sites," "school lands in irrigable area," "expert form," or the very important question of considering the "mesa land."

Inasmuch as the Interior Department and the Indian Department are already in process of adjusting everything that pertains to "Indian payments"—as applicable to the Indians' share of the costs of the project, I am at a loss to see why at any time should be, or even can be devoted to that question from the standpoint of economy to the "white lands" of the Reclamation unit, and in view of the specific instructions from Secretary Lane that the present board has its duties circumscribed to the California side of the project, I am at a greater loss to know by what authority the board can cross into Arizona and chase jack rabbits over the mesa in order to see whether those lands shall or shall not be included in the Yuma project, however desirable it may be to include these lands in the irrigable area.

Mr. Teasdale certainly knows by this time that the people on the Arizona end of the project have thus far refused to take any part in the proceedings of the present board of cost review, plainly indicating that they are satisfied as matters now stand, in other words that they are willing to pay the costs of the project without any help from the mesa. If the petitions that are now being circulated can convince Secretary Lane (and I am sure they can) that the people of Yuma county want the Arizona side of the project reviewed by a cost board, naturally the board would be instructed to look into the "irrigable area" question, and in that manner, and that alone, in my opinion can the mesa lands be considered—but certainly not by the present board, and it would therefore seem a waste of time for Mr. Teasdale to bring the matter up for discussion before the board of which he is such an active and aggressive member.

I will be glad indeed, to see Mr.

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Teasdale press to a finality the question of the arrangement, agreement, lien, or whatever it may be that exists between the government and the Southern Pacific regarding the railroad on top of the levee running on the California side from Yuma to the Laguna dam. I have no idea what it is, though I have tried to find out. It must, however, be a rather strange and one-sided document, inasmuch as the project seems to have the burden of maintaining the levee, while the S. P. seems to enjoy the privilege of ownership.

This question is particularly pertinent just at the present time, when it is requiring all of Acting Manager Priests' ingenuity, as well as a considerable force of men, to prevent the Colorado, even at its present low stage from eating a large part of the levee away every hour of the day and night. During the last day or two I am credibly informed that the levee has been viciously attacked by the river and is in great danger at the present time—not from overflow, but simply from caving banks at low tide.

Train load after train load of rock and "pulverized lime stone dust" are being grushed to the weak spot by the local service, but I have not yet heard of the Southern Pacific doing anything to save its own tracks, probably because it got the "extinguished" manager by the umbilicus when the original agreement was made, and has held on like grim death to a lead nigger ever since, as the S. P. always does when it finds a good thing.

Go to it, Mr. Teasdale, I'm with you on that question until the last dog dies, but my friendly advice is to keep your mitt off of the Arizona mesa!

Let's don't waste any more time than is absolutely necessary. Go after the big things on the California side!

That charming blush of a coy maiden oft-times comes from the nearest drug store and disappears with the evening scrub.

A dreamer is generally a nice, amiable, harmless sort of creature whose principal noise in this work is made in his own dreams.

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MONEY MAKING MINE NAMED BILLY SUNDAY

(Special to the Yuma Daily Examiner) TUCSON, Aug. 6.—Glen Allen of Douglas, has named his mine in the Santa Rita mountains after Billy Sunday, the evangelist. When asked why he named it after Sunday, Allen said he did so because it, like Sunday, is a good money maker. The property is a gold and silver proposition, and the percentages are said to run high.

NEW JAG DRINKS

Hostetter's Bitters is becoming the popular drink with the jag seekers throughout the States. Several Phoenix druggists have been arrested for selling the patent medicine, which produces a wonderful drunk with all the trimmings. It is said that Hostetter's contains about five times as much alcohol as lager beer.

With patent medicine alcoholic drinks and the latest in etherized cider there is not much trouble in getting on a good spree, but the after effects must be something fierce.