

MEMORANDUM REGARDING ESTIMATES ON IRRIGATION, 1912.

The present policy of the Government in allotting lands to its wards and throwing the remainder of various western reservations open to settlement has brought about conditions rendering imperative the expenditure of large sums of money for irrigation. The Indians are allotted the choicest irrigable lands on the reservation prior to the opening, and since such lands are of small value without irrigation, it is necessary that water be secured and the rights perfected in accordance with the laws of the respective states in which the reservations are located. The State laws almost uniformly demand diligent and continuous construction of the required canal systems, and in several instances name the maximum time for completing the work, also the date when final proof must be made based upon actual beneficial use of the water. Special reimbursable appropriations have been heretofore made in large amounts to carry on this work, which is of vital importance to the future welfare of the Indians, since only through irrigation can the average allotment be made a source of independence for the owner.

For the purpose of continuing construction work and necessary maintenance on the important projects already well on their way to completion, also to initiate such new projects as in the opinion of the Department

should be undertaken, the reimbursable appropriations requested for the fiscal year 1912 aggregate \$315,000.00, divided into the apportionments as hereafter detailed, a brief summary being included in each instance justifying the necessity for the sum specified.

IDAHO.

Fort Hall Reservation.

For continuing the work of constructing an irrigation system for the irrigation of lands on the Fort Hall reservation and adjacent ceded lands, including maintenance of constructed systems, dams and reservoirs \$50,000.00

This is a project which will reclaim approximately 35,000 acres of Indian lands, and about 12,000 acres of ceded lands located north of Pocatello, the only source of supply for which is through the system under construction. The amount named is the minimum one it is felt can be counted upon as sufficient to carry on the necessary work of construction, repairs and maintenance of this large system.

MONTANA.

Fort Belknap Reservation.

For continuing construction of ^{the} Milk River irrigation system - - - - - \$25,000.00

The very favorable decision rendered by the Federal courts in the case of the United States versus Winters, et al, through which the Indians were granted prior rights in Milk River to the extent of 5000 inches, or sufficient water to care for approximately 25,000 acres of land, renders it necessary for the Government

to continue construction of a proper distributing system in order that the Indians may be in position to beneficially apply the water to their lands and to insure in perpetuity its future enjoyment.

NEVADA.

Pyramid Lake Reservation.

For the construction of a concrete diversion dam across the Truckee River, the enlargement and extension of present ditches and the construction of a canal on the west side - - - - - \$50,000.

The present situation on this reservation as regards irrigation is very unsatisfactory. An old and inadequate system was built many years ago, but is neither sufficiently large nor comprehensive to properly convey to Indian lands the available low water flow of Truckee River. The Indians have made fair progress considering their handicaps, and have approximately 360 acres farmed under the present old system, this being the aggregate area of 41 small farms. There are about 500 Indians on the Pyramid Lake Reservation, and on a basis of even five acres each, some 2500 acres should be equipped with irrigation facilities. The contemplated system, as estimated by Superintendent Olberg, will cover approximately 2750 acres of additional land, and its construction would insure the future independence of this small band of Pah Utes.

OREGON.

Klamath Reservation.

For construction of the Modoc Point Canal \$50,000.

The Modoc Point project is the most attractive irrigation project on this large reservation. It was initiated some twelve years ago, when several miles of easy earth section were excavated at the lower end. The Southern Pacific Company is now building a railway directly through the lands sought to be reclaimed, and in consideration of rights of way have contracted to build certain small but difficult sections of the proposed main canal in the central section. The land is excellent, and the project is feasible. The Indians have a most valuable reservation and will ultimately have large sums of money to their credit from the sale of either the timber lands or of the mature, dead and down timber, the value of the latter being estimated at some ten million dollars. No better method of utilizing Indian funds can be devised than through the construction of irrigation and drainage systems to reclaim through irrigation lands already allotted, or provide through the drainage of marshy areas additional lands now of little value. The advent of the railroad which will traverse the reservation in the near future will aid materially in the development of all feasible projects of this character.

UTAH.

Uintah Reservation.

For continuing the construction of lateral distributing systems, and for maintenance of the existing irrigation systems - - - - - \$75,000.00

Here the Government has made reimbursable appropriations during the last five years aggregating \$675,000 for the construction of a large number of canal systems covering approximately 75,000 acres of Indian allotments. The State laws require that the construction proof for main canals be submitted within a period of five years from date of approval of application. The time for such proof is now at hand, and proper maps are being prepared in conformity to the requirements. The State, upon our request, amended its irrigation code in a manner which gave the State Engineer the power to extend for a period of four years the time of making final proof through actual beneficial use of the water, and the extensions have been granted on all applications filed on behalf of the Indians.

The apportionment recommended is absolutely essential to construct additional laterals as the need for them arises, and to maintain the system in a proper manner, in order that every advantage may be given the Indians in the vital matter of preserving their water rights.

WASHINGTON.

Yakima Reservation.

For extension and maintenance of the irrigation systems on lands allotted to the Yakima Indians \$15,000.

This apportionment is required to carry on the work of extending the new reservation canal and its laterals in a manner complying with the provisions of the State law.

which requires that due diligence must be exercised in carrying on any irrigation project for which water filings have been made. It is necessary for this work to be continued to preserve flood water filings made on behalf of the Indians, and the sum named is believed to be the minimum amount it would be wise to consider.

WYOMING.

Wind River Reservation.

For continuing the work of constructing irrigation systems, including the maintenance of completed canals
\$50,000.00

Again at this point the apportionment contemplated is to continue irrigation work and maintain newly constructed systems in a manner which will give the Indians every opportunity to perfect title to water rights for an area approximating 75,000 acres. The State officials have recently extended the time for making final proof through beneficial use to 1916.

GENERAL FUND.

The aggregate of the apportionments above given is \$315,000.00, which covers the reimbursable portions of the estimate submitted. The remaining like amount, making up the total of the estimate submitted, is the general or non-reimbursable fund, which is the one generally applicable for work on various needy reservations and for the benefit of allottees on the public domain, being applicable

for irrigation, drainage, and protection of irrigable lands from damage by floods; also for maintenance and repairs of irrigation works and the salaries of the Chief Engineer and his assistant, also various superintendents of Irrigation, Assistant Engineers and supervisors of constructed ditches etc . It provides for the expense of the office of the Chief Inspector in connection with exercising general supervision over all irrigation work performed on Indian reservations, through expenditures from general, tribal and reimbursable appropriations.

The approximate apportionment of the general fund for 1912 is as follows:

Salaries and expenses of Chief Inspector and Assistant Inspector of Irrigation - - - - - \$10,700.00

Salaries of regular and registered employees not covered in special appropriations, including expenses of office of Chief Inspector - - - - - \$75,000.00

Water Development for Papago Indians, Arizona \$10,000.00

Several thousand Papagoes, many of them nomadic, occupy barren lands in Southern Arizona, eking out a most precarious existence. Some aid in water development should be given to these neglected wards. This apportionment is small in view of their needs.

Building Dikes and Lateral Ditches, Fort Mojave Reservation, Arizona, - - - - - \$10,000.00.

The purpose of this apportionment is to construct several miles of restraining levee or dikes to reclaim from

overflow certain lands on the Fort Mojave Reservation bordering the Colorado River. Also to build laterals for lands entitled to free water from the Cotton Water Company.

The Indians on this barren reservation are without water. As a right of way consideration, a corporation called the Cotton Water Company is compelled to deliver free of cost sufficient water to care for one thousand acres of land on the old military reserve. To take advantage of this valuable asset, the lands must be protected from inundation during flood periods of the Colorado. Laterals reaching from the main canal of the company to the Indian holdings must also be constructed. The Indians are needy and should be aided during the fiscal year 1912 to the extent specified. The contemplated dikes will reclaim from overflow approximately 3000 acres.

Navajo and Mogui Reservations, Arizona & New Mexico-
\$70,000.00

On these immense barren reservations, aggregating in area approximately 14,000,000 acres, there reside some 30,000 Indians. Few irrigation possibilities of any magnitude exist, aside from the San Juan project now under process of construction, which will require the major part of the apportionment contemplated. A number of smaller projects are also contemplated from the sum stated. The development of water on this great desert area is of vital importance for irrigation, domestic and stock purposes.

Southern Ute Allotments, Colorado.

\$20,000.00

The contemplated purpose of this apportionment is to continue construction of canals and laterals to cover allotted lands of the Southern Utes, in order to preserve valuable water rights in Pine River.

Southern Ute Diminished Reservation, Colorado, \$ 5,000.

A remnant of Chief Ignacio's tribe are here occupying one of the most barren reservations in the West. There is no permanent water supply for irrigation, barely sufficient for drinking purposes for man and beast. This apportionment will be used in completing construction of a flood water ditch from Mancos Creek, which crosses the diminished reserve. It is hoped that the Indians may be able to raise grain crops and some little alfalfa, vegetables, etc., through the use of the winter and spring flood waters and the subsequent limited summer flow of this stream.

Southern California Reservations

\$30,000.00.

Many little bands of Indians are located on various so-called Mission reservations in Southern California. The barren nature of many of these reservations requires that water be developed by means of pumping plants, artesian wells, infiltration galleries and other devices for obtaining underground waters where the absence of perennial streams renders the ordinary gravity supply impossible. The Mission Indians

are among the best, as regards farming, and have made a very satisfactory showing with such waters as have been developed for them thus far. The apportionments contemplated for the fiscal year 1912 are approximately as follows: Morongo, or Malki, \$5,000; Agua Caliente, \$4,000; Martinez, \$4,000; Cahuilla, \$2,000; La Jolla, \$3,000; Pala, \$5,000; Mesa Grande \$2,000; Santa Ynez, \$3,000; Capitan Grande, \$2,000.

Tongue River Project, Montana \$5,000.00.

For continuing construction, and maintenance of the Tongue River canal on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. This is the only feasible project on the large Tongue River Reservation, where so many Indians are located. A large sum of money has already been expended on the partial construction of a canal system, and the maintenance of the works already constructed is necessary. The sum named is deemed the minimum which should be apportioned this project, as all new work requires close supervision and some repairs until the banks become thoroughly settled.

Zuni Dam, Repairs and Canal System, \$40,000.00.

Work is under way towards effecting the repairs of the Zuni spillway, greatly damaged through the failure of the south mesa against which one end of the dam rested. A cut off wall composed of steel piling and concrete is under process of construction. This work is essential if there is to be preserved for these Indians the Zuni reser-

voir, the only project on this reservation which offers any hope for agricultural advancement, and one which has already cost so large a sum of money.

Pueblo Reservations, New Mexico, \$10,000.00.

For construction, repairs and maintenance of irrigation systems and for protection of agricultural lands from damage by flood in the Rio Grande River on various reservations in New Mexico. These Indians are good farmers, and deserve aid in their fight against the encroachment of this river.

Reclamation Service, Carson Sink Allotments, \$12,080.00.

This sum provides for the annual reclamation charge on some 4000 acres of Indian allotments made to certain Pah Ute Indians on the lands coming within the scope of the Truckee-Carson project.

Moapa Reservation, Nevada, \$3,000.00.

It is proposed to use the sum specified in improving the irrigation facilities at this point. The water supply of the Indians is limited by State decree, and there is need of an efficient and economical system.

Miscellaneous Reservations, \$16,220.00.

The remaining apportionment is intended to cover unforeseen contingencies and unexpected demands, such as

emergency repairs to irrigation systems, repair of flood damages, etc.

Total of General Fund Brought Forward, \$315,000.00.

Very respectfully,

Signed, W. H. Code,

Chief Engineer.

WHC/HPC