

WACO-CUSTER DITCH WORK TO BOOM FARMING

New Yellowstone Dam With Culvert Over Sand Creek Will In- crease Acreage.

Improvements to be made in the Waco-Custer Irrigation ditch this winter will insure an ample supply of water to the farmers operating the 4,500 acres of land in the project and make the area one of the most fertile and most productive in all Montana, according to an announcement by John Hill, chief engineer of the Waco-Custer Ditch company, while in Billings.

Let Contract Here.

The directors of the ditch company met in Billings Friday and let a contract for the construction of a new head and concrete dam across the Yellowstone at a point about 45 miles below Bozeman where the Waco-Custer ditch heads. Frank Hoeselberger, of Helena, was awarded the contract to build the dam. He is the man who constructed the dam at the head of the Tom Leggie Irrigation ditch on the Big Horn river near Hardin.

Aside from the new dam to raise the level of the water at the headgate, the most important piece of work planned on the Waco-Custer ditch is a big culvert to carry the water across Sand creek near Waco. Heretofore the bed of Sand creek had been utilized to carry the water for a short distance, the water course itself being dry for the most part except in the spring of the year and in flood times during the summer.

Eliminates Floods.

The Irrigation ditch led to lower than the bed of Sand creek and in past years considerable in the area have seen the flood flowing down to wash the irrigation ditch full of sand and gravel just at a time when the water was under control. Not only was the water supply shut off, but several days' labor was required to repair the damage at a very heavy item of the year. The contract will be won by the trouble in the future.

Other important improvements are planned. For the dam and the culvert, same will, in the words of Mr. Hill, make the Waco-Custer ditch "the best ditch in the country." The directors of the ditch company, acting on the authority of the stockholders, have recently notified a bank on the ditch property sufficient not only to make it liquid but also to pay up all outstanding liabilities and place the Waco-Custer ditch on a cash basis.

Takes Out Near Waco.

The directors of the company met Mr. Hill and J. M. O'Brien, of Custer, Tom Kemp, of Waco, and Mr. L. Howe and O. K. Bennett, of Billings. Mr. O'Brien will have direct supervision of the improvement work in the management of the board of directors. The ditch takes out of the Yellowstone river a short distance west of Waco and runs down the valley on the south side of the river for 45 miles, crossing an east and west of the river which guards the mouth of the Little Horn.

The territory has long been noted for hams, apples, and corn, and with an ample water supply, the average of all of these crops will no doubt be largely increased during this and succeeding years.

Waco-Custer Ditch Work Boon to Farmers

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