

we abandon this part in which there has been considerable investment, all we are doing is moving backward, not ahead.

I agree that we ought to drop out the marginal lands where there are problems, where they have salt problems, and that sort of thing, but we think that we have the good part and the productive part that is salvagable. As the Senator knows much better than I, since he was Secretary of Agriculture before he came into this body, an irrigation project in the highlands of the West is a kind of 15-, 20-, 30-year shakedown cruise in which you have to establish the roots and the basis of the project. It takes a long time to finally get on a firm basis.

We have had this experience in the Governor's section of the State, when that project was brought in, in eastern Wyoming. We had the same experience with a project that is up in the Bighorn Basin, Powell and Cody. But these things are growing and prosperous, and they are not only contributing to the State and the county but to the Federal income as well. This has been the experience in Riverton, in the first and second divisions where they are producing and making a return. We think that much of the third division now is suitable for inclusion into the Riverton project and that we should take advantage of the investments that have been made. We have learned much from our experience with the third division at some considerable cost. We should now profit from this experience. I think it would be a case of irresponsibility to write it off now and to abandon it. As a result of the lessons we have learned, we are beginning to reach the plus side of the ledger. That is why I think that we would lose more to quit now than to go on with what we know we have.

Senator ANDERSON. The report shows that in 1944, as a result of investigations begun in 1935, that it was recommended that it be abandoned. I wonder what new information you have to give support to this proposal?

Senator MCGEE. For the proposal or to abandon or to revive it? Because the proposal to abandon took in the whole unit, the third division, and suggested that because of the several thousands of acres that were deemed hopeless to administer as the third division, the entire project be abandoned.

Our proposal would attach the productive part of the third division which is already growing.

Senator ANDERSON. That consists of how many acres?

Senator MCGEE. That is 8,800 acres, approximately.

The experts will have to verify that figure. It approximates that. We believe those are worth saving.

Senator ANDERSON. Can you show us how this idea developed?

Senator MCGEE. They will show that. It will be appended to the project already existing. We do not think that this will detract from those. We think it will strengthen the two that are in existence now. They have the details on that, the units that it will be able to support, and what can be done with even some of the marginal lands beyond in terms of grazing and that sort of thing that strengthens the existing units, comprised in the first and second divisions. So that, in several ways it appears as something that we are going to drag along with these other two divisions, but it is not. Actually, it is enhancing the entire project, both administratively as well as productively.