

The Riverton project consists of 57,184 acres of irrigable lands served by water diverted from the Wind River. The Riverton project has two divisions. The Midvale Irrigation District, 45,353 acres, has been for the most part successful. This year, in fact, its crop yields set a new alltime record.

The third division, 11,831 acres, in part, has not been as successful.

Mark that I say in part.

Again this year this subcommittee reported out a bill, which is now law, which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to bring water to the third division because the board of commissioners of the third division has refused to enter into a repayment contract for any part of the project construction costs.

This third division project has created some difficulties, and in general it has a poorer class of soils than the Midvale project. The Midvale project was developed during the period between World War I and World War II. The third division was developed after World War II. Originally the Riverton project consisted of 106,451 irrigable acres, but its present operating size is 57,184 acres.

Public Law 83-258 allowed for an adjustment of land with the entrymen and consequently we have had the reduction in size of the project. Public Law 83-258 has only partially accomplished the job it was supposed to accomplish, due at least in part to the continued seepage of water from canals and laterals, poor irrigation practice of the settlers, the lack of time for drainage effects to be felt, and problems associated with continued drainage and the alkalinity of the soil.

On the Midvale district, a total of almost \$4 million has been expended, the work is 89 percent completed, and all funds remaining under presently authorized programs have been exhausted.

This rehabilitation and betterment program falls short of completing the fiscal job of conserving and protecting the developing land resources which remain. Approximately 20 percent of the Midvale irrigable land is now adequately reclaimed to protect against waterlogging and salination by the canal building and drains that have been installed.

In the third division district the drain completion work has been a part of the regular construction program. This work has been stopped. It cannot be resumed until a repayment contract is entered into, and until the project is reauthorized. Plans for completing his system must go forward rapidly if the Riverton land resource is to be restored and preserved.

Because the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee realized that the Riverton reclamation project, as well as other Wyoming projects, were in dire need of reauthorization, or at least additional work, it recommended that the Secretary of the Interior appoint a five-member review commission, referred to as the Wyoming Reclamation Projects Survey Team, to study and recommend action which would assist in the proper development in the State of Wyoming.

The bill that we now have before us is the result of the recommendations made by the survey team. This bill was prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is the Bureau's hope and the hope of others, that the bill will solve the problems that do exist on the Riverton reclamation project.

I think the most significant recommendation is that the Riverton project be reauthorized as a participating unit of the Missouri River Basin project. Such a reauthorization will make financing available to complete the work needed to protect the land resources. It would permit substituting repayment contracts for a term of 50 years for those now in effect in the Midvale district, which would otherwise run for 108 years.

In order to supply a family supporting farm, some additional adjustments in farm boundaries will be necessary to compensate for land that has seeped in the past 3 or 4 years. A case-by-case review must be made to identify uneconomical farm units. The basic formula should be predicated on a diversified crop livestock enterprise.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to quote from an exhaustive study of this subject made by the Wyoming Natural Resources Board, an agency that has contributed greatly to the natural resource development of the State.

In a 2,500-word report, the board concluded on page 5 that:

"In summary, the natural resource board considers H.R. 8171 essential to the Riverton project, and to the economy of the State of Wyoming in utilizing these water and land resources. The board further invites the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the Congress their sincerest considerations of the basic