

THE INDIANS AT WORK.

The Crow Indians as Builders of Irrigating Canals.

[Helena Independent]

The experiment of constructing an extensive irrigating system in the Crow reservation, on which all the unskilled work should be done by the Indians themselves, was a move in the direction of a solution of the Indian problem. The work has been vigorously prosecuted for several months under the direction of Walter H. Graves, engineer in charge on behalf of the government, and a ditch builder of long and successful experience. About ten miles of ditches have been constructed and a great many miles more planned in various valleys of the great reservation. The work done so far has been accomplished at a cost of about \$5,000 less than the engineer's estimates, and with the exception of the engineer and one white man who acted as foreman, the work has been done by Crow Indians and their teams. The work was undertaken with considerable misgiving on the part of the officials of the Indian bureau at Washington, who had little faith in the success of an enterprise of that sort when carried on by white men, and much less faith in its success when carried on by Indian labor. But the work has been done, and has been well and cheaply done. The Indians were paid every two weeks in cash and the effect of the distribution of several thousand dollars of extra money among them is very noticeable. A great many of them now own excellent work teams purchased from their earnings on the ditch. Instead of depending on the tribe herd for their animals they have bought many horses and mules of traders who have come into the reservation, or they have gone, in many instances, to Billings and other places and bought high grade animals suitable for heavy work. They no longer depend entirely on the agency for their supplies of harness, but have gone to near by towns and bought a better quality. They also have bought many other things more to their liking than the articles supplied them gratis by the government.

Mr. Graves reports that many of the Indians employed when the work was begun continued with him until work was stopped for the winter, a period of about four months. They reported promptly on time, and worked faithfully throughout each day. The longer the work continued, the greater the number of Indians offering to work.

Some Trying "Takes."

A reckless compositor one day went in to Jules Janin and besought him to decipher some pages of his own manuscript. The great man replied that he would rather rewrite than attempt to read over again what he had once written.

Few printers could read Balzac's copy, and those who could made an express stipulation with their employer to work at it only one hour at a time. Even after the hieroglyphics had been translated into print, the proof sheets came back more illegible than the original copy.

But no penman, either American or foreign, could have been worse than Horace Greely. Said a new compositor to whom a 'take' of the editor's copy had been handed, "If Balshazzar had seen this writing on the wall he would have been more terrified than he was.—Exchange.

100 FREE WATCHES!

Mr. Graves says that many of them have saved up almost all of their earnings and now have comfortable sums of money in their possessions. At first they insisted in having their pay in silver, which was procured for them at considerable trouble. Before long they began to understand the value of paper money and preferred to have their wages paid in it. Almost every man who has been employed on the ditch now has a large red leather pocket book in which he carries, smoothly pressed out, his savings. A good many of them understood the advantages of putting out money at interest

and frequently have asked Mr. Graves, and others in whom they had confidence, to keep money for them. A number of them leave money in the keeping of the Indian agent, occasionally calling around and asking to see the money, that they may have proof that it is being safely kept. On these occasions they expect to have the identical money shown them that they left on deposit, not having fully grasped the equivalence of equal sums of money represented by bills of different denominations. Mr. Graves says the prevailing idea that the Indians have no thrifty qualities has been entirely dispelled by his experience on the reservation.

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" Pondera,	3.40 "
" Conrad,	5.00 "
Arr. Shelby Junction,	6.00 "

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" Collins,	6.50 "
" Steell,	8.15 "
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