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COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION OF ARIZONA

STATE HOUSE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

March 15, 1932.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

At the request of Mr. Mathews of the Tucson Star we are sending you some information on the Colorado River.

To get the other side of this question, I suggest you write to the Governor of California for a copy of the report of their Colorado River Commission, transmitted December 30, 1930. The best report on the "Compact" is a thesis written by Reuel L. Olson, while Professor of Law at the University of Southern California, prepared in order to secure a degree from Harvard University. His conclusion rather favored Arizona, and criticism caused him to sever his University connections. His book is now published. His address is Suite 814, Title Insurance Bldg., 433 South Spring St., Los Angeles California.

Articles on this subject, House and Senate hearings, are voluminous, but the essential features are covered in the material being sent and suggested. Should you desire more information we will try to supply it.

The Teapot Dome scandal involved $100,000,000.00. The Colorado River development will create fourteen billion of new wealth in the Southwest. It is rather alarming that those in control of the Washington bureaus have been unchanged since Secretary Fall, and that the President, Secretary of Interior and Commissioner of Reclamation are all from California.

You should not accept the figures of any one on the irrigable area of some state. No one knows about Arizona, Utah, Nevada and New Mexico. It will be some time before the data on which to base a compact or law are available. The Reclamation Service is but now examining some 1,000,000 acres in the Lower Gila Valley in Arizona. They worked in Wyoming last summer, and will shortly examine Nevada lands.

Stream measurements are much more accurate, but vary greatly each year.

The Federal Government has drilled no dam sites in Arizona. No one can pass on the feasibility of a dam site without drilling it.

Should you be interested in going outside of this immediate subject we have some newspaper clippings showing that some Californians hope to have the Federal Government pay for a $300,000,000.00 project to take Sacramento River water into the Lower San Joaquin Valley, and later escape repayment. The financial depression and lessening of the President's influence seem to have slowed up this scheme.

There is more than a possibility that, after the All American Canal is built and payments for it become difficult to make, some water user will take advantage of the provision included in Section 1 of the Boulder Dam Act, to refuse payment. It reads "Provided - That no charge shall be made for water or for the use, storage or delivery of water - - - in the Imperial Valley". Section 4 - Provides that contracts shall be made by the Secretary with the Imperial Valley for the repayment of the cost of the All American Canal, as provided in the Reclamation law, but the Boulder Act itself is made an amendment to this law in Section 14.

The Boulder Dam Act is primarily a power grab. Arizona lost practically every Progressive vote in Congress on the Swing Johnson Bill, as they want Muscle Shoals and Boulder to which to point with pride, as examples of Government ownership success.

We lost most of the Democratic members because of a trade between California and Texas to give Mexico Colorado River water in exchange for water from the Mexican tributaries of the Rio Grande for use in Texas.

When Martin B. Madden died Snell could not hold all the Republican members in line aga nst this legislation, as he was subject to a personal attack because of his own water power holdings.

The bill was defeated at several sessions by very close votes. California put out excellent propaganda. The most subtle was Johnson's opposition to the confirmation of Chas. E. Hughes, as Supreme Judge. Hughes was very familiar with

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the St. Lawrence and Chicago drainage canal cases and best equipped to pass on this water question, and Johnson was afraid of his opinion. Hughes did not participate in the Supreme Court decision.

If we can be of any further service to you please advise.

Very sincerely yours,

H P Maddock

S E C R E T A R Y
COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

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