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Because Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved Mrs. Haydock from an operation we cannot claim that all operations may be avoided by it, but many women have escaped operations by the timely use of this old-fashioned root and herb medicine.

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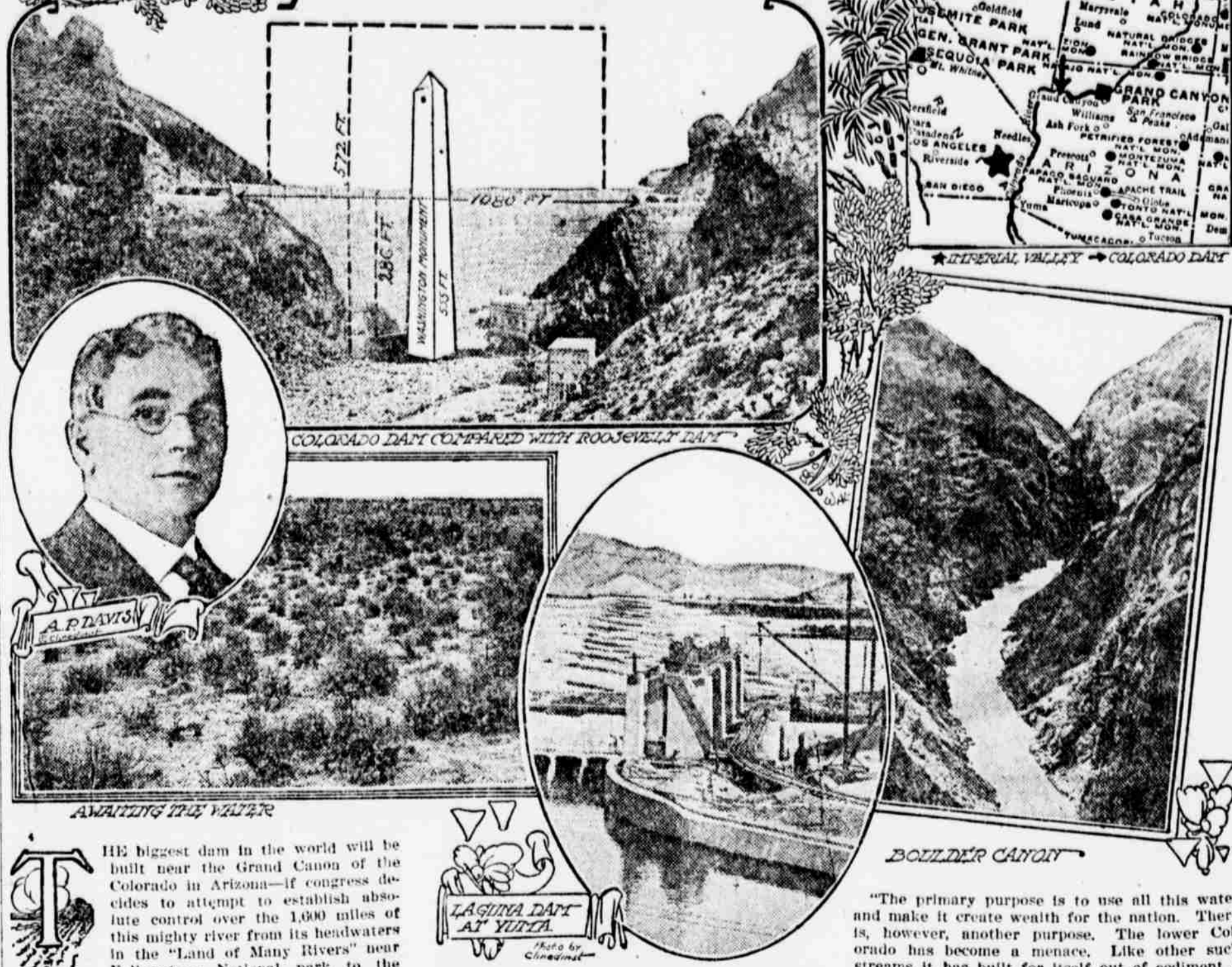
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Biggest Dam in the World

By John Dickinson Sherman



THE BIGGEST DAM IN THE WORLD WILL BE BUILT NEAR THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO IN ARIZONA—IF CONGRESS DECIDES TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THE 1,600 MILES OF THIS MIGHTY RIVER FROM ITS HEADWATERS IN THE "LAND OF MANY RIVERS" NEAR THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TO THE MEXICAN BOUNDARY LINE JUST NORTH OF THE HEAD OF THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

"Biggest dam in the world" is saying a good deal. There is, for example, the Assuan dam in Upper Egypt at the first cataract of the Nile. It is an irrigation dam of solid masonry and is the largest of its kind in the world. It is 6,561 feet long and cost \$24,000,000. It is 118 feet high and is to be raised to 141 feet.

Then there is the Gatun dam, an essential part of the Panama canal. It is an earth dam, 9,040 feet long, 1,900 feet wide and 60 feet high. It creates Gatun lake, which is 164 square miles.

The Shoshone dam in Wyoming, just east of the Yellowstone, rises 829 feet and is the highest masonry dam in the world.

The Roosevelt dam on the Salt river in Arizona, is 286 feet high; its base is 235 feet and its top 1,080 feet long. It cost \$6,500,000. It makes a reservoir lake about 25 miles long and 1 to 2 miles wide.

The Grand valley reclamation project in Colorado has a roller-crest dam across the Grand river which is the largest in the world.

Now, of course, the proposed Colorado river dam will not be bigger in every way than these mighty dams. Nevertheless, it will be the biggest of all in the sense that it will be the most spectacular of all dams, from an engineering view point. Perhaps an engineer might call it the most spectacular engineering feat in all history.

For the proposed dam will have to be from 500 to 600 feet high—nearly twice as high as any such structure in existence. To attain this immense height it will have to be many times as great in bulk. It will have to be built between floods in a desperate race against time. It will create a tremendous reservoir, nobody knows just how big; it will back up the waters of the Colorado for a hundred miles and find its level in the innumerable canons leading off on both sides. Its promoters claim that it will make fertile by irrigation a great desert; that it will furnish vast hydro-electric power; that it will help solve the problem of the Colorado at the Mexican boundary line, which continually endangers the Imperial valley of California.

The site of this proposed monster dam is Boulder canon. The Colorado, after leaving the Grand canon, runs straight west for a hundred miles. Then it turns almost at right angles to the south, forming the boundary line between Nevada and California on the west and Arizona on the east. Near this right-angled turn is Boulder canon—2,000 feet deep and 320 feet wide at the base and 750 feet wide where the top of the dam will come. One end of the dam will be in Arizona and the other in Nevada.

This, you see, is a dam site worthy of the great Colorado, which has its headwaters in Wyoming and drains parts of seven big states. In Wyoming and Utah this river is called the Green. The Colorado branch is called the Grand. The Grand and the Green unite in southeastern Utah to form the Colorado. Curiously enough the legislatures of Wyoming, Utah and Colorado are now in a race to change the "Green" and "Grand" to "Colorado" and a bill to this effect is also pending in congress.

Many rivers unite to form the majestic Colorado. The principal branches of the Green are the Uinta, Price, Yampa and White; of the Grand, the Eagle, Roaring Fork, Gunnison and Dolores; of the Colorado, the Fremont, Escalante, Paria, Kanab and Virgin on the right and the San Juan, Little Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila on the left.

The Grand canon is on the main river in Arizona and extends from the mouth of the Little Colorado to the Grand Wash. The Grand Canon National park contains 994 square miles and encloses 217 miles of the river, which in places is 6,000 feet below the rim of the canon.

The lower Colorado runs through a low desert country. At Yuma on the Mexican line is an immense irrigation project which consists of a diversion dam nearly a mile long, 400 miles of canals and 70 miles of dikes and cost about \$5,000,000. The water is carried to Arizona lands

by a 1,000-foot tunnel which passes under the river.

Below Yuma the river, when in flood, inundates large areas lying below sea level. In 1905 the floods enlarged the 50-foot intake of the Imperial valley irrigation canal in Mexican territory to 2,400 feet. It poured all its waters through this break and its regular channel to the Gulf of California went dry. This break was not successfully closed until 1908-07. Floods again threatened to drown out the Imperial valley and in 1909-10 a congressional appropriation of \$1,000,000 was applied to the construction of levees and dikes. Most of the Imperial valley is below sea level and was formerly a part of the Gulf of California. The Colorado built itself an aqueduct from its silt and cut off the part to the north. Evaporation did the rest.

It is thus evident that much depends upon the vagaries of the mighty, restless river. A year or so ago congress provided funds for a study of a project to control it. Arthur P. Davis, director of the reclamation service, department of the interior, has just returned from a trip along the lower river. Here are some of the things he has to say regarding the Boulder dam project:

"For years we have measured the water that flows down the Colorado. We know approximately how much of it there is to stop. Our first task, therefore, is to find a dam site back of which there are storage valleys large enough to hold all the flood waters that may come. The Grand canon and Needles on the Santa Fe are about 250 miles apart. Along the river between them is a chaos of mountains and canons, almost uninhabited. Two-thirds of the way down from the canon is the selected dam site in Boulder canon.

Canon Narrow Here.

"The gash that is here cut through the rock cliffs is but 320 feet wide at the base and 750 feet wide where the top of the dam would come. Thus the canon is no wider than that which was closed by the Roosevelt dam in Arizona, but the structure must be nearly twice as high. This additional height makes it an incomparably more difficult task. It is more difficult, also, because it must be put in the bed of a much greater stream. That stream must be diverted and its bed made dry for the work. During the spring months the river is at flood and is too powerful to be dealt with. Then comes eight months of comparatively low water.

"It will be necessary to blast out tunnels around the dam site that will carry the normal flow of the river. Then, some spring, the waters will be diverted into these tunnels. Between the time of that diversion and the coming of high waters the following spring the river bed will have to be scraped to bedrock, probably a hundred feet below the present waterline, and that bedrock will have to be built up with concrete, thus making the proper foundation for the great structure. It will be a race against time.

"The water will back up the Colorado nearly a hundred miles. It will find its level in many canons leading off to one side and the other. The Virgin river flows into the Colorado from the Nevada side above this dam site. This river opens out in a wide valley. It will furnish the principal storage basin of the project. Two desert villages in Nevada will be inundated. Between them they represent but a dozen homes.

"The relief to be afforded, is 300 miles away on the lower reaches of the stream. Near the border of Arizona, California and Mexico there are extensive areas of desert land which, with water for irrigation, may be transformed to what are probably the most productive farms in the United States. In the Colorado desert, in California, 400,000 acres of this land, below sea level, has already been privately reclaimed and is occupied. There are other lesser valleys along the lower river on either side.

"All these projects are interfered with by the fact that the Colorado is given to huge floods in the spring, but runs quite low at other seasons. It furnishes either not enough water or too much. While the desert is parched all about great floods run into the sea unused.

"The primary purpose is to use all this water and make it create wealth for the nation. There is, however, another purpose. The lower Colorado has become a menace. Like other such streams it has built for itself out of sediment a trough that is hundreds of feet above some of the surrounding country. Whenever there is flood there is danger of breaking out of that trough. It did so once ten years ago and it required a most frenzied fight to stop it. There is an area in southern California as big as Delaware that might be submerged. The Imperial valley might be wiped out. We must either control the flow of the Colorado or build a system of levees that must be watched and built higher through all time. If this latter project were advisable from an engineering standpoint it would be next to impossible of actual accomplishment because much of the area requiring levees is in Mexico and international co-operation would be difficult.

"The canal which now waters Imperial valley runs partly through Mexico. The reclamation service plan is to substitute an all-American canal to take the water out higher up, to run a ditch at a higher level that will double the area of irrigable lands in Imperial valley. The dam for this diversion is already built. It is the Laguna dam, above Yuma. Already it is diverting water for the irrigation of 100,000 acres in Arizona. If the stream were regulated by storage all the water in the river would be harnessed and all the land available could be irrigated. The lower Colorado would become the Nile of America.

"Twenty acres of land is enough for a family in this section, so 1,000,000 acres would make homes for 50,000 families. The manner of its cultivation is intensive. It is the most nearly tropical corner of the nation.

Great Electrical Power.

"The electrical power developed would be very large. When this reservoir is filled there will be a column of water 500 feet high with the pressure of this great artificial lake back of it. A river of water will be constantly flowing from beneath the dam. It will have the force of that 500 feet of pressure. It can be set to turning as many turbines as it may be profitable to turn. It can be generated so economically that it can be furnished at prices that will be surprisingly low. The only material problem will be transmission lines. It is long distances to any centers of population. Mines will, of course, be considerable consumers. With cheap power new uses will develop.

"Very satisfactory results in power generation have been secured at the Roosevelt dam. The advantages of these projects in the Southwest are many. Down there they irrigate summer and winter and so there is a constant flow of water through the dam. At the projects further north the water runs but part of the year. There are no problems of ice, none of frozen ground, frozen pipes in the Southwest. The electricity almost makes itself every day in the year.

"At present we are hung up on the snag of finding the proper bedrock as a foundation for our dam. We are boring holes in the bottom of the river with diamond drills in search of bedrock. We have not yet found it at the site which was our first choice.

"As to the cost, it will be large. Estimates as yet are little more than guesses. There are guesses that range from \$40,000,000 to \$75,000,000 for different designs with different assumptions.

"Of course the theory is that in the long run these reclamation projects cost the taxpayer nothing at all. The government advances the money for building them, but it is charged up against the lands benefited and every cent is paid back by those who use the water. The construction money is merely loaned to the settler to be returned in installments covering a period of twenty years. Three-fourths of the land benefited by this project is already privately owned. The government will be asked to advance only the money that would be the share of the lands that are still owned by the Indians. Thus it will have to finance but about one-fourth of the project. The reservoir will pay for itself. The land that it irrigates will over night be worth \$400 an acre. The increased wealth and production of the Southwest will be an element of profit in the future which will benefit the entire nation."

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