

TAMING THE RIVERS

How to Make Flood Waters Useful in Reclaiming Deserts—Millions Lost Yearly thru Floods

Washington, Dec. 16—In his forthcoming annual report Secretary Lane says:

No one can survey the physical condition of the United States without being impressed and almost overwhelmed with the magnitude of the work that must be done in keeping our rivers within bounds and putting them to use. It is the largest task that the government must undertake sooner or later, and the sooner in my judgment the better. This matter came immediately and most practically to my attention on a trip made in the late spring to the lower valley of the Colorado river. On the Arizona side of this river the government is reclaiming the desert. That lowland will grow almost anything, from dates to alfalfa. Its most helpful friend, and its unrelenting enemy, too, is the river itself, for without the river it would return to cactus and sage. Yet the river is so jealous of her freedom that she yearly attempts with violence, and by insidious methods as well, to reclaim for herself each foot of land that has by stealth been taken from her.

On the opposite side of the river, the California side, the river is held in by mountains until it has reached the Mexican line. There, by a capricious turn, it deserts its old-acquainted channel and flows westward into what was once a lake, but is now little more than a morass, and so slowly finds its way to the Gulf of California. Immediately north of this westward bend in the river is the Imperial Valley, which has lately been used by several novelists to illustrate the heroic struggle of man with nature. For this valley was once a sea itself, and has indeed left a sort of rudimentary sea in a lake known as the Salton Sea. The fruitful soil of this valley, hundreds of feet deep, is the silt of the Colorado, the deposited wash of a thousand miles of mountain channel. Each June, when the snows of the Rockies melt, the Colorado, resenting the limitations which man has set up for it, presses with two strong shoulders against both sides of its prescribed banks, like Porthos under the slow caving of the earth. And as long as that flood comes the people on both sides must watch and work as the Hollanders have done.

There are two distinct and aggressive schools of thought on this matter of keeping the Colorado in its place. One is for sending the river willy-nilly down the old channel. The other is for letting the river live its own life, but keeping it off our preserves. One may be termed the absolutist theory and the other the

democratic theory. Congress has thus far committed itself to the latter. And this year, when danger threatened, Congress joined in raising a fund to keep the river from forcing its way north into the Imperial valley, and this work was successfully executed under this department by the former Chief of Engineers of the United States army, Gen. W. L. Marshall. No one, however, believes that the work is at an end or that we have done more than put a good patch upon it.

Now, far above this point of danger there are thousands of square miles of land that need but the water of the Colorado river to make them as fruitful as the lands of the San Joaquin or the Salt River valley. We need to catch that water when it is young, soon after it has been born from the snows. There, in mountain valleys, it should be kept for a time and, as needed, led into the peaceful paths of usefulness. And on that problem the Reclamation Service is working. The difficulty is to find large reservoir areas.

This instance is cited to show how intimately the matter of flood control and of reclamation are bound together. The problem extends from sea to sea. When we come eastward, to the Missouri and the Mississippi for example, we find that in their upper reaches the lands need the waters, while in their lower reaches the lands must be saved from the waters.

No one can take the yearly toll of lives lost and of property destroyed by the furious and unrestrained sweep of our rivers without realizing that the people of this country can not regard themselves as owning this land, really possessing it, until they have brought these waters under subjection. And in doing this they will literally create new land by the millions of acres, lands that will support millions of people as against the thousands which live upon it today. And in saying this I am not speaking without authority, for a year ago we enjoyed the value of a visit from the renowned builder of the Assuan dam, Sir William Willcocks, who has spent his life in India, Mesopotamia, and Egypt as a river tamer. And after he had seen our problem he sighed with regret that it might not be his fortune to see the day, that he said would surely come, when the valley of the Mississippi would be another valley of the Nile, only greater in area and more perfectly adapted to the white man's life.

Why Should the Whole Burden Be Borne Today?

How these great works can be carried on calls for constructive thought not merely on the engineering side but more immediately upon the financial side as to those ways and means by which the lands reclaimed shall be made to bear in some degree the burden of the expense. As to the funds which will be needed, they amount into such figures as to be staggering. And I can see no hope that

Do You Read Labels?

Domestic science teachers and food authorities are urging the housewife to carefully read the labels on all food articles.

The laws of most states compel food manufacturers to print the ingredients of their products on the label, and this enables consumers to distinguish healthful foods from those which may be deleterious.

High-grade baking powders are made of pure cream of tartar, derived from grapes. Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder is a type of the highest grade. It is pure and healthful beyond any question.

The low-grade baking powders are made from alum, a mineral acid salt. Most physicians condemn their use in food.

Consumers can learn the character of the baking powder by referring to the label, which must state whether the contents include cream of tartar, alum or phosphate.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER
Made from Cream of Tartar

this work will be adequately undertaken without the government advancing its credit and investing directly some of its own funds. We are conducting this government from day to day out of current revenues. Only the richest of people could pursue such a policy. No private enterprise attempts it. No railroad system has been built that way. But few of the states now construct their highway systems out of the year's revenues. The permanent improvements which the whole people undertake are a legitimate charge against capital account, not against maintenance. A commission to devise the ways and means by which the states and private landowners and the national government can cooperate in paying for the work done seems to me a more needed body than one which will report upon engineering methods.

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STANDARDIZE POTATOES

Department of Agriculture Urges Growers in Each Locality to Grow Same Variety

With the close of the potato harvest season for 1915 the time seems opportune to call to the attention of both the grower and the seedsmen the desirability of considering seriously a very material reduction in the number of varieties grown in any given community or section of the country.

It has been the history of every other staple crop that the fewer the varieties grown the more easily are they marketed. The pioneer fruit grower in America tried to grow as large a list of varieties as he could afford to purchase, while today the tendency is to reduce the list to the least number that can be depended upon to meet the market requirements. The reason for this is that it has been found a much easier task to sell large quantities of one variety than an equal quantity made up of a large number of varieties. It is believed that the same principal applies to the potato crop.

In a recent publication by the department, Bulletin No. 176, a system of classification of potatoes is presented in which the leading commercial types are referred to eleven groups, and a list of the varieties studied which are thought to belong to each group is furnished. In many cases the varieties listed in each group are so nearly identical that in the opinion of the author of this bulletin there is no justification for the retention of more than ten per cent of them.

The commercial grower should determine what group or class of potatoes is best adapted to his climatic and soil conditions, and then confine his efforts to not more than one or two varieties within that group. In this way it will be possible for him to become more familiar with the behavior of the variety he is growing; to recognize its special cultural requirements; and to offer for sale a much more uniform and high-grade product than where he is dissipating his energies on a dozen or more varieties.

The potato growers of some of our middle west states, particularly those of Wisconsin, are being strongly urged by their potato specialists and

state associations to adopt the community plan of growing potatoes, one or, at the most, two varieties, in this way the buyer can be assured of securing a uniform stock, in carload lots, of Green Mountain, Rural New Yorker, or other classes of potatoes.

The movement must come from the grower through confining his efforts to a few varieties, preferably not more than one or two. These should be selected intelligently, with reference to soil and climatic conditions. For example, the Green Mountain group is particularly well adapted to the cooler and moister sections of the United States. The Rural New Yorker, while succeeding under similar conditions, is also able to produce satisfactory crops where air and soil temperatures are higher, and where the summer precipitation is scant, provided moisture is abundant in September and October. The Irish Cobbler group, consisting of early varieties, is at its best in the North, but also produces well when planted as an early truck crop in the South.

The size of the seedsmen's lists is very largely, if not entirely, governed by the grower, and the remedy lies wholly with him. The efforts of the potato grower, dealer, and seedsmen should be directed as follows:

1. Reduce the variety list to a few standard commercial varieties.
2. Standardize these by careful selection and culture.
3. Adopt the community plan of growing but one or two varieties and advertise this fact to the public.
4. Demand a higher grade seed potato from your seed grower or dealer, but in so doing be willing to pay a correspondingly better price for it.

NOTICE

There are many reliable farm papers issued nowadays that supply farmers and stockmen with cashable and workable ideas, but the paper best suited to the farmers of this section is Farmer and Breeder. It is issued semi-monthly at Sioux City, Ia., and is intensely interesting and practical. It regularly carries veterinary, dairy, poultry, horticulture, home and fashion departments in addition to market and live stock news. The special feature stories about successful farmers and breeders give many valuable hints, suggestions and lessons that any intelligent farmer can apply with profit.

Bear This in Mind

"I consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy by far the best medicine in the market for colds and croup," says Mrs. Albert Blosser, Lima, Ohio. Many others are of the same opinion. Obtainable everywhere.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



"The Sign of Service"

We have enjoyed a liberal patronage during the year just coming to a close, and for this we are thankful, and we take this means of thanking the people of Alliance and surrounding country for their valued business.

We feel, in a way, that this increasing patronage was and is due to the quality of our goods, together with our prompt service, two aims that are always predominant with the Forest Lumber Company.

Every person in the state of Nebraska, and especially those people living in Box Butte county, have many reasons for offering up thanks at the beginning of a new year.

Permit us to say that we can always recommend our lines and our service—they are at your disposal, and we will continue to try and merit the patronage of old friends and customers and we welcome new friends and customers during the coming year.

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