

## Colorado River Fight Is Settled

Agreement for Division of Waters Reached by Commission Headed by Secretary Hoover.

### Existing Rights Stand

Santa Fe, N. M., Nov. 16.—(By A. P.)—The Colorado river commission, composed of representatives of seven western states and the federal government, at its meeting today, reached agreement upon the main principles of a treaty to be entered into between the seven states in the basin and the federal government for division of the water and the proper development of the river.

The plan provides for a division of the basin into two groups, embracing the states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico in the upper division and the states of Arizona, Nevada and California in the lower division.

It was considered that inasmuch as the character of agriculture, the method of use of water, the general economic conditions surrounding power and other uses were widely different in the two areas, separated as they are by 1,000 miles of Colorado river canyon, this division was a natural and logical one.

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Definite allotment of an equal amount of the waters of the river was agreed upon between the two divisions, and provision was made for the summing of a second commission some years hence to provide for the equitable division of the unallotted water. In the light of the then increasing knowledge and increasing need.

Preference in rights for use of the water is to be established to agriculture and none of the existing rights in the basin are disturbed.

The commission will proceed immediately to the drafting of the language of the compact.

The governors and governor-elect of the states in the basin have been invited by Chairman Hoover to join the commission at Santa Fe at once, in order to obtain their final views on the compact.

The commission has agreed upon the extreme urgency for immediate action of control work to protect the Imperial valley from floods. It has developed that the situation in the valley has become much more acute during the past month, due to a partial failure of the Colorado dam.

Full Details Withheld.

The commission, headed by Herbert Hoover representing the federal government, is composed of commissioners from the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. It had been assisted by Director Davis of the United States reclamation service and representative engineering and legal staffs in the various states.

Chairman Hoover announced that the commission feels gratified at the successful issue of the unique conference for a treaty which has a large number of states, submitting the method under the constitution for an indefinitely prolonged contesting litigation and arresting development in the Colorado river basin which would otherwise have followed.

The commission did not announce where the water passing from one division to another would be measured, nor did it announce the technical details of the compact, such as the agreement to provide for possible actual figures covering the volume of flow of the river. Much of the commission's time since it convened has been occupied in the discussion of technical details of this kind.

No announcement was made, either, concerning any provision for possible future requirements for the republic of Mexico.

Agriculture Given Preference.

Agriculture will be given preference in rights for use of the water of the stream, according to the commission's announcement.

It was the general expectation to night that the commission would be able to complete the actual language of the compact by Saturday, although there was said to be a possibility that sessions would go into next week to permit governors and governors-elect of the seven states of the basin to come to Santa Fe.

The legislatures of the seven states in the basin must ratify the compact before it becomes effective. Congress also must approve it to make it effective.

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An erroneous report that Gen. Wright had died during the night was denied today.

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