

# LAS VEGAS AGE

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SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1929

### AN ANNIVERSARY.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, the "Boulder Canyon Project Act," was signed by Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States.

By that act and from that moment the construction of Boulder Dam was a certainty.

The Act provided that certain things should be done to make it effective. Those things were done and on June 25, President Hoover by proclamation declared the Act in full force and effect.

There was then undertaken by Secretary of the Interior Wilbur and Director of Reclamation Mead, the stupendous task of carrying out the necessary preliminaries to actual construction. More than 100 engineers were out to work making the final detailed plans. The complicated and tedious task of selling the power rights and making the very complicated contracts has been pushed diligently. Many conferences have been held with officials of states and power interests and real progress has been made.

The Age hopes that Las Vegas may receive New Year greetings from Secretary Wilbur to the effect that the power complications are finally settled.

Then only an appropriation of money by Congress will be needed to start the great work.

If we have felt the wait long, it is our own fault in not giving thought to the greatness of the work under way. We have been over-zealous to see the dirt fly.

The Age knows that President Hoover, Secretary Wilbur, Dr. Mead and our senators and representatives in Congress are just as anxious to make fast progress on this matter as we are to have them. So let's possess our hearts in patience with the full assurance that Boulder Dam is coming just as fast as the power of the government can bring it.

### CONTRASTING WEATHER.

WHEN WE READ of the terrible storms and cold and suffering throughout a large portion of the United States, it is a good time to count our own climatic blessings.

In another column of this issue we publish the record of Las Vegas weather during the month of December to date. It indicates a winter climate about as near the ideal as is found anywhere. And it has been just as pleasant and enjoyable as the figures would suggest—warm, bright, sunny days and cool nights with the midnight mercury hovering above the frost line.

And here in Las Vegas we have December roses in bloom in the open air. Quite a contrast to an eastern winter.

### SELLING CLIMATE.

LAS VEGAS has not yet begun to sell its climate to any large extent. We have the climate, plenty of it and the finest in the world. Many have acknowledged its superior qualities and delights.

But so far we have not put up our climate in sufficiently attractive packages. We can hardly expect to sell even so excellent a product in large quantities until we provide the trimmings—which means a high class resort hotel with the comforts, luxuries and amusements to which those who have plenty of money are accustomed.

At Palm Springs, California is an example. About forty years ago Palm Springs was known to a limited extent for its delightful winter climate. Not until comparatively recent years when fine resort hotels were provided did it become a financial asset.

At Chandler, Arizona, a rather modest but pleasant resort hotel brought people to a hitherto desolate spot in the desert and built a fine, prosperous town. Phoenix itself is building rapidly because of the wealth attracted to it by the Arizona Biltmore.

All of which we are saying as merely introductory to the assertion that Las Vegas will be the next locality to which capital will turn in the business of selling climate. We have been disappointed two or three times it is true, but the big resort hotel is certain to come in due time. And with much less waiting than those other places had.

### BUILDING AN EMPIRE.

WE IN LAS VEGAS have been nearly twenty-five years on our empire building adventure. Those who came with the opening of Las Vegas town site were brought here by the pioneering spirit—the urge to create a great and prosperous country out of a seemingly forbidding desert.

In the building of an empire a quarter of a century is but a brief period. The development of any country is a slow and orderly process in the very nature of things. But if we compare the advancement of Las Vegas during the past twenty-five years with the similar incubating period of any other locality we will observe that Las Vegas has done wonderfully well.

We created here out of nothing, almost, a fine little city. And now we are in the throes of getting it ready for one of the greatest periods of growth and prosperity any city in the west has ever enjoyed.

### NOTHING TO IT.

IT WAS with much pleasure and satisfaction that the Age received word from Washington carrying the strenuous denial of our old friend O. T. Johnson, Jr., that he had opposed the construction of Boulder Dam.

As the Age surmised, the Washington report that Mr.

# Wilbur Insists on Early Construction of Boulder Dam

## Mathews Says 1.63 Power Rate Is High Enough

## California Colorado River Commissioner Answers the Statements of Upper Basin States Protesting Price.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (AP)—Assertions that California will pay too little for Boulder Dam power and water storage as set forth in a letter from the four upper basin states to Secretary Wilbur was answered by W. B. Mathews, California River commissioner. The Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico commissioners protested against the 1.63 mills per kilowatt hour rate tentatively set for power, and also suggested that twenty-five cents per acre foot for water storage is far too low.

## Horsely Opens Branch Law Office in Pioche

Judge Charles Lee Horsely, pioneer attorney of Clark and Lincoln counties, has opened a branch law office in Pioche, Lincoln county, and plans to maintain connections there, it was learned recently. In addition to his law practice in Las Vegas, Judge Horsely will make trips to Pioche during all court sessions there, and on the first Monday of each month and for a few days thereafter. The office, which will be in the care of Mrs. J. L. Bowman, is in the new building of the Ray S. Thompson company, merchants. Judge Horsely lived in Pioche from 1905 to 1922, having been district judge prior to the term of Judge Orr. He was at one time president of the Virginia Louise mine, and was for a time a member of the state senate.

Johnson was opposing Boulder Dam and advocating that Southern California take its water supply from the Sacramento, was just one more of those false and futile efforts made every so often by some misguided individual to discredit the Boulder Dam project. It is in the same class with the rumor that the dam was to be moved to Glen Canyon or to Utah, or that no proposals would be received for the power, or that Arizona would stop the construction, or something.

The one fact which we should keep steadfastly in our minds is that all the power of the United States government is behind the Boulder Dam project. And we notice that a little criticism here or there or else a little-dog-in-the-manger opposition does not stop the government once its policies are crystallized. It just isn't being done. Uncle Sam goes right ahead immune to petty carping. And it is perfectly obvious that neither Arizona nor any other state or interest has the power to stop the orderly progress of the Boulder Dam project.

## WILBUR SAYS DAM TO BE BUILT, PACT OR NO PACT

(Continued from Page 1)

Dam project is sought by Secretary of Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur. W. P. Whitsett, chairman of the Metropolitan Water District, declared today following his return from a Washington conference with the department chief. Secretary Wilbur urges California and Nevada to make another effort to reach an agreement with Arizona over division of the dam's power and water. Whitsett said.

According to the chairman, the Interior Department executive is determined that the dam project shall be pushed ahead with as little delay as possible. Pointing to the importance of Boulder Dam's construction in the southwest, economic progress, Whitsett declared the project would furnish employment for every workman in the wide territory served, and would create as well a demand for materials from every state in the southwest.

"The Boulder Dam and allied activities involve approximately a half billion dollars," Whitsett said. "A constructive program to house and provide for more than double present population will immediately start with the two projects—Boulder Dam and the Colorado river aqueduct," he said.

## NEVADA RENEWS ITS OFFER FOR POWER.

RENO, Dec. 20. (AP)—Commenting upon the statement of W. B. Mathews that 1.63 mills per kilowatt hour for Boulder Dam power is sufficiently high, George W. Malone of the Nevada Colorado river commission said Nevada's bid of 1.75 mills per kilowatt hour is the power is Nevada's answer to Mathews' statement. "The corporation formed by the state of Nevada," Malone said, "stands ready to contract with the Secretary of the Interior for all the firm power to be generated at the bid price of 1.75 mills per kilowatt hour, immediately upon definite allocation being made to such company, letters of credit from responsible banks made to the Secretary which will convince

him beyond all question of the ability of said company to undertake this or any other contract of like size.

"The Nevada corporation has further offered in a wire to Secretary Wilbur December 18, to provide for the needs of the Metropolitan Water District of California under proper conditions to be written into the contract with the government."

Renewing Nevada's protest against the Interior department's proposal to allow Los Angeles to purchase a domestic water supply from the reservoir at the rate of 25 cents per acre foot, Malone said a higher rate should be fixed because the acre foot cost of storage, after making proper allowance for power development, will far exceed 25 cents. Malone declared the cost of water storage all over the west will far exceed 25 cents a foot.

## Mrs. Taylor Writes Appreciation of Kind Treatment in Vegas

Appreciation of kind treatment given her while she was in Las Vegas was expressed in a recent letter, written by Mrs. Blanche M. Taylor of Huntington Beach, who came here last summer in search of her husband, who she alleged had deserted her. Taylor has been located, and now contributes \$50 a month for the support of Mrs. Taylor and her two children, who are in school, according to the letter, received recently by W. J. Flowers, of the Vegas Credit Bureau.

Mr. Flowers helped her to find work while she was in Las Vegas, and helped her communicate with authorities up-state relative to locating her husband.

"I want to thank you once again for the very great kindness you showed me while I was in Nevada," she said in her letter. "We have been living at our old home for almost a year now. Both the children and I are improving in health. I am so happy at being home with the children that I try not to worry about the future. Sincerely,

BLAST KILLS ONE BAKERSFIELD, Dec. 20. (AP)—An explosion in the plant of the Kern County Picking company late today caused the death of one man and the injury of several others, according to reports reaching here from the plant, several miles from the city.

## Johnson Denies Being Opposed To Boulder Dam

## Declares Himself Favorable Toward Beginning Work On Huge Structure At Earliest Possible Date.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (AP)—A strenuous denial of reports from California that he had opposed the construction of Boulder Dam was made to the United Press here today by O. T. Johnson, Los Angeles, recently elected member of the metropolitan water district of Southern California.

Johnson said he could not imagine the origin of reports representing him as opposing the dam which were read before the Los Angeles city council. On the contrary, he said, he was favorable toward beginning work on the huge structure at the earliest possible date.

The Californian explained he was here to visit his wife's parents and to "help along" with the dam program. He has not yet conferred with Secretary of Interior Wilbur.

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## They Rick Xmas Gifts on Sidewalk Like Wood Stack

They rick their Christmas gifts on the sidewalk in front of Penney's store! They rick 'em like cordwood! Yesterday a dozen or two of flashy green wagons for youthful transportation were stacked shoulder high in front of the establishment, with a dozen tri-cycles nearby. Christmas is approaching in earnest, no foolin'!

## Board Asks For Sewer Plans

Consideration of the final completed plans for Las Vegas' proposed sewer system improvement is sought by the city commissioners, by whose request City Clerk Viola Burns yesterday wrote to the firm of Koebig and Koebig, Los Angeles engineers, asking them to send a representative to meet with the board next week to submit a complete report. The city board will meet again Monday.

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