

LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

The Age Building, 411 Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Entered in the Postoffice at Las Vegas as Second Class Matter
Subscription Rates — \$2.50 Per Year

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LAKE MEAD WATER

Las Vegas is facing a real crisis, probably one of the most important in her history. And it is a crisis not generally recognized by our people.

Our artesian water, as fine as there is in the world for domestic purposes, is ample to supply a city much larger than the present Las Vegas for purely domestic purposes. But it will not if we are to take the word of those who have made a study of the subject, be a sufficiently certain and dependable supply for such electro-chemical and metallurgical plants as would like to locate in this area.

Two decisive measures are necessary and should be undertaken without any unnecessary loss of time.

Looking forward to the possible need of water in Las Vegas Valley, the Nevada Colorado River Commission during the early stages of Boulder Dam discussion, at least fifteen years ago, demanded the right to take 300,000 acre feet of water per annum from the reservoir to be created by Boulder Dam. That right was conceded by all the states of the Colorado River Compact.

We now find that water from the lake is necessary to the development of our industrial future.

A concrete reservoir somewhere on the eastern rim of Las Vegas Valley; a twelve-inch pipe line with two pumping stations leading to the reservoir from the lake are all that is necessary at present. The whole thing can probably be built for much less than half a million dollars.

Its cost will eventually be repaid by those industrial plants and tracts of land which elect to contract for portions of the water. And it is very probable that the city of Las Vegas may some day supplement the domestic water supply with that from Lake Mead. The constant wastage of artesian water by reason of uncapped and uncontrolled wells is already lowering the underground water levels.

State Engineer Alfred Merritt Smith has given considerable study to the problem and we have every reason to believe that the Colorado River Commission, so far as its authority extends, will give approval and assistance to the project.

This water problem, if not solved satisfactorily and promptly, will have a deterrant effect on those studying conditions with the object of establishing great plants in this area.

Although it is not generally realized, this water question is the most important facing us just now. We already have

power, the cheapest of any city in the United States. With a little encouragement industrial plants to use all the power available to Nevada will be put to work.

We sincerely hope that, since the city and county are both vitally interested in this subject, they will begin to work out plans to carry out this work together, if possible, or through the organization of a district if necessary.

The indebtedness of half a million dollars for this water system will not be nearly as great a load for the present community as was the first \$35,000 bond issue for the Las Vegas sewage system twenty-five years ago.

But it must be shouldered if we are to get the full value out of Nevada's Boulder Dam power allocation.

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