

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SENATOR HARRY P. CAIN  
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Mr. President, this month the eyes of the reclamation world are on what Stewart Holbrook, one of the great Western writers, refers to as "The Far Corner." Mr. Holbrook, in this title to his latest book, refers to the Great Pacific Northwest, which includes the State in the very furthestmost Northwest corner of this Nation, my own State of Washington.

Attention is focused on Washington State this month because the greatest celebration in its history is taking place there. It is the great Columbia Basin Water Festival, which will open at Pasco, Washington, the extreme southern end of the Columbia Basin project, on May 22nd, and travel 150 miles from city to city, town to town, for 10 days, ending at the great Grand Coulee Dam, the northern terminus of the project, where the final celebration will take place on June 1. Coincidentally, this Celebration of the releasing of the waters of the great Columbia Basin, out over the first 66,000 acres of heretofore arid lands, to transform them from a desert to what promises to be one of the most beautiful and productive agricultural areas anywhere, will celebrate also the 50th anniversary of the first time that the reclamation idea for America was put before the Congress. In 1902, fifty years ago, the great Teddy Roosevelt, then President, lay down in his message to the Congress fundamental principles which formed the basis for the Reclamation Act of 1902. A significant passage said.

"It is as right for the National Government to make the streams and rivers of the arid regions useful by engineering works for water storage as to make useful the rivers and harbors of the humid regions by engineering works of another kind \* \* \* Our people as a whole will profit, for successful homemaking is but another name for upbuilding of the Nation."

Since that time, fifty years ago, valiant men, who had imagination, courage, and the will to make a dream come true, have worked relentlessly for the reclamation of the waste lands accessible to irrigation from the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Working at their side and giving them unremitting support was the press of the State. To these worthy members of the Fourth Estate must be attributed also much of the credit for the success of this great project.

A part, and a very large and important part in the success of the efforts of these men of my home State of Washington, is to be attributed to the vital part many of them played in explaining to the Congress of the United States the need for reclamation projects in Washington, and the tremendous benefits to the State and the Nation to be accrued from such projects.



I would be remiss today if I did not pay tribute to these men of the past and present who dreamt of things that exist today and plead with the Congress to help them make those dreams come true. I salute them now. Mr. President, these men were lobbyists. In recent years the Congress has given considerable attention to the subject of lobbying. I am sure that my colleagues will agree with me that those who have appeared here in Washington to explain this project sought by their state, many of whom have traveled across the Nation at their own expense in the interest of their homes and future homes of their descendents, have engaged in good lobbying. Certainly it was successful lobbying.

I want to point out also, my State of Washington owes a very real debt of gratitude to all taxpayers over the Nation who have made it possible for this great project to come into being. The total cost, Mr. President, of the Columbia Basin project is estimated to be, when it is finished, \$702,500,000, all paid from the Federal Treasury. Of this amount, \$450,000,000 has already been spent up to March 31st of this year. The irrigation facilities are 38% completed, the power facilities 96% completed.

It is expected that commercial sales of power generated by the great dams which comprise the Columbia River reclamation project will eventually repay 75% of the total project construction cost. The remainder will be repaid to the U. S. Treasury by the settlers themselves, making the Columbia Basin project a self-supporting enterprise, which in turn will contribute millions of dollars in crop and other benefits to national prosperity. When finished, there will be under irrigation a million acres of land - an area almost the size of Delaware.

Mr. President, on September 9, 1933, Mr. Frank Banks, Reclamation Bureau Supervising Engineer, drove the stakes for the axis of the Grand Coulee Dam, marking the first step in the great Columbia River Basin project. To him, who stayed on the job at Grand Coulee until his very recent retirement, goes much of the credit for the progress, during the ensuing years, of the tremendous construction program. He worked harmoniously and effectively with the many interests concerned. He was respected and liked by everyone. I understand that his successor, Mr. A. L. Dowling, is equally popular and is living up to the high example set by his able predecessor.

It is my hope that the Columbia Basin Celebration will attract persons not only from all over my home State and those states adjacent to it, but from all over the country. Those who do attend will never forget what they will have seen. I hope too that as many of my colleagues in the Senate as possibly can will attend this Festival, or parts of it, to see with their own eyes what they have had such a large part in bringing into being.