UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Reclamation
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

MOVING FORWARD WITH FEDERAL RECLAMATION IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Address of R. J. Newell, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
before the Washington State Reclamation Association
at Yakima, Washington, December 12, 1946

Once again we are gathered together in the City of Yakima, one of the irrigation capitals of the world. The fall season in the Northwest is always a highlight of the year for we of the Bureau of Reclamation for it gives us an opportunity to get together with our old friends, to reminisce of days gone by; to talk about our mutual problems of today, and to discuss plans for the future.

It is of all three that I now wish to speak to you . . . of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Looking back, I want to say that the State of Washington can be proud of its accomplishments in Federal Reclamation.

This state, while only eleventh among the 17 Western States in area of irrigated land within its boundaries, has made noteworthy contributions to the Federal program. I refer, in this instance, not only to the huge quantities of foodstuffs and other wealth produced in the Yakima and Okanogan Valleys and to the vast block of hydroelectric power generated at the Grand Coulee Dam, but also to the valuable training and inspiration in the engineering field received in this state by at least eight men prominent in guiding the Bureau of Reclamation to what it is today.

Chief Engineer Walker R. Young, who supervised the construction of Boulder Dam, was in charge of the Kittitas Division of the Yakima Project for five years, from 1925 to 1930. Ralph Lowry used his training on the Sunnyside Division from 1914 to 1918 to good advantage, moving forward to supervise construction of Shasta Dam, third largest concrete structure in the world. He is now Assistant Chief Engineer. William H. Nalder, also an Assistant Chief Engineer, played an important role on the Tieton Division from 1909 to 1912. Incidentally, Lowry and Nalder are graduates of the State College of Washington; so they are really so-called "local products."

Regional Director E. A. Moritz, who has charge of all Bureau of Reclamation activities in an important section of the West--Arizona and parts of New Mexico, Nevada, and California--was employed on the Sunnyside Division from 1907 to 1913. Robert Calland, Assistant Regional Director, whose office supervises the Central Valley Project of California, was employed on the Tieton Division during three different periods from 1911 to 1922. R. B. Williams, former Assistant Commissioner and now Assistant

District Engineer on the million-acre Columbia Basin Project, served on the Kittitas Division from 1924 to 1932.

Our good friend John S. Moore, who made an excellent record as superintendent of the Yakima Project during his 32 years of service terminating in 1940, rose to become Director of Operation and Maintenance over all Bureau projects in the West. Then there is Harold T. Nelson, who worked on the Roza Division from 1937 to 1946 and rose to become Construction Engineer. He is now Assistant Regional Director in my office.

It is quite clear from this list that the Bureau assigned a high type of personnel to the Yakima Project to the mutual benefit of the organization, the men themselves, and the water users for whom the works were constructed.

While I cannot list myself with the dignitaries just named, I, too, look back fondly on my own two years in this state, 1931 to 1933, on the Cle Elum Dam.

From the standpoint of irrigated agriculture, this state has an impressive record. The small Okanogan Project in the last few years has recorded among the highest per-acre returns of any project in the West. In 1945, the average was $615 per acre.

The Yakima Project, embracing some 430,000 irrigable acres which are provided a full or partial supply of water by the Bureau, last year produced $78,000,000 in crops, or an average of $234 per acre. In the last 36 years the project has produced three-quarter billion dollars in crops--18 times the Federal investment in the irrigation works. The gross value from last year's production of crops alone was nearly double the total construction cost of the project. While gross crop values are not in themselves definite proof of the prosperity of our farmers, in this case I believe the indication is correct.

It is of great concern to the Bureau of Reclamation that water users do well in their farming enterprises. The end result of our activities is not imposing dams or symmetrical canals, it is happy families on the farms. Then, too, unless the irrigators show a profit, the entire structure of Federal reclamation may be weakened. When irrigation districts cannot pay their construction cost obligation, some congressmen use the delinquency as an argument to prevent further expansion of Western irrigation. The Yakima Project, exclusive of the Roza Division, which is a new area, has already repaid $10,212,000 of its $25,000,000 contract obligation to the Federal Treasury, or 41 percent, practically every dollar that has become due.

Regrettably, as a problem of today we have a few cases in the West where irrigation districts have signed repayment contracts to get water only to attempt thereafter to defer or keep from paying their obligations. Such action can only harm all of you who are dependent on Federal funds for Reclamation development. We of the Bureau are not the only ones who are concerned over this problem. Many of our loyal friends also are perturbed. The main speaker at last month's annual meeting of the Oregon

Reclamation Congress, a former newspaper editor in an irrigated area and now a prominent state official, spent an hour on this subject hoisting up the danger signal. Whenever inequities are found the Bureau will certainly seek to correct them, but prospective water users should realize that signing a contract with the United States for a supply of irrigation water is a serious step, that they should do so in good faith and hold themselves morally bound by its provisions.

On the brighter side of the repayment picture, I am happy to draw your attention to the record of one of the divisions of the Yakima Project, the Tieton. This 25,000-acre area, which since 1910 has produced about $139,000,000 worth of apples, peaches, and other fruit, will soon command the attention of the entire West. It will make the final payment on its construction cost obligation, averaging about $100 an acre, and thereby become the first irrigation district on a Federal Reclamation Project completely to repay its construction charges. The last $18,000 of the $3,597,479 invested by the Federal Government is to be repaid this month.

You probably will agree that the board of directors of the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District should be commended for setting this excellent example of how Federal funds invested in Western irrigation developments are returned to the Treasury. May many more such fine records be established as the program moves forward.

Time does not permit me, of course, to deal with more than one or two of the problems that confront us in Reclamation today. One of the most important, and one which has been in the limelight, is regional development of land and water resources. There are many loyal Americans who believe a new administrative organization is necessary to bring about maximum utilization of these natural assets. There are also many sincere people who feel such new government procedure is undesirable. All agree that integration of plans by the Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, and other Federal and state agencies, must be assured.

To that end, there has been formed a Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee, comprised of representatives of the Bureau, the War Department, the Bonneville Power Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Power Commission. The committee has invited official representatives of the seven states in the basin to work closely with it. The group meets each month in a different area, thereby assuring local people that they can be heard concerning their individual problems. We are working as a harmonious unit toward the ultimate realization of full development of this rich river basin.

There also is concern among irrigationists today as to the effect of the recent political changes on expansion of reclamation in the West. We shall have to wait and see, of course, but as Commissioner of Reclamation Michael W. Straus recently put it, "We have never irrigated a Democrat's farm land and left a Republican's to drought, or vice versa."

However, in the future as in the past, it behooves us to make ourselves heard when the right of the West to develop its resources through irrigation is threatened. We must not let Reclamation be annihilated, as

one Washington editor put it, by "chopping block" methods of cutting government expenditure. Reclamation can hold up its head proudly in the face of attack on funds to carry its program forward. The investment in this governmental enterprise has been a prudent one, which has enriched the Nation manyfold, directly and indirectly, through new wealth in crops, through new markets for all sections of the country, through creation of new tax bases, through employment and opportunities for self-sustaining farms for thousands of people, and in other ways.

To date, the State of Washington has fared well in the recurring battle of appropriations. Records show that nearly one-fourth of the Federal investment in irrigation and multiple-purpose projects in the 17 Western States has been made in this state. I think organizations such as this can take a great deal of the credit for this success.

Expenditures in Washington to date total approximately $223,000,000, a sizable sum. When all projects now in operation, under construction, or authorized in this state are completed, the Federal investment will total about $757,000,000.

You are all familiar with the work now in progress in Washington. Therefore, I shall only casually mention this activity. This year the Bureau initiated construction of irrigation facilities on the Columbia Basin Project which will ultimately bring water to a million acres of arid but fertile land. Contracts totaling $33,887,000 are in effect, and bids will be called for and contracts awarded in the next calendar year for work costing an additional $36,500,000. This is the Bureau's major undertaking in the West and we have high hopes for its success. As Assistant Commissioner William E. Warne once pointed out, development of the Columbia Basin will be "like adding a 49th State to the Union."

Within a few miles of this meeting hall, on the Roza Division of the Yakima Project, the Bureau is engaged in building 18 pumping plants and a distribution system to serve 25,000 acres of land. This year we completed a gravity system capable of irrigating 47,000 acres. The initial supply of water by pumping is scheduled to be delivered next year with completion set for 1948. Last year the average per-acre crop return from the Roza Division was $202. This is an impressive figure as some of the cultivated land yielding these high values was covered with sagebrush last spring.

Looking to the <u>future</u> in the State of Washington is both pleasant and inspiring. This area is blessed with potentialities in water and land resources surpassed by few states in the West. There is a great job to do in Washington and the Bureau is prepared to shoulder its part of the responsibility.

Let me present to you the potentialities in this state with a few graphic figures.

(1) The Bureau of Reclamation has under investigation or under consideration in the State of Washington irrigation and multiple-purpose projects costing more than a <u>billion</u> dollars at pre-war price levels.

(2) The program, if carried out in full, would bring under irrigation more than 1½ million acres of new land - triple the present irrigated acreage. Thus the development would add the equivalent of more than three Yakima Valleys to the wealth of the state. Supplemental water supplies would be provided for irrigated land now suffering periodic shortages.

(3) On multiple-purpose and power projects constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation and other agencies more than 5,000,000 additional kilowatts of installed capacity would be added to meet rapidly growing needs of the Northwest. This is approximately three times the existing generating capacity.

(4) Several of the projects would provide major flood control and navigation benefits.

(5) Under the Reclamation Law all of the investment in projects contributed by the Bureau of Reclamation, except small allocations to flood control, navigation, and fish and wildlife, would be returned to the Federal Treasury through payments by water users and from power revenues.

These salient points will indicate to you what comprehensive development of streams can do for the State of Washington. The benefits which this further land and water resource development will bring about are forecast by those already achieved--large prosperous farming communities, thriving cities and towns, growing industries, and an expanding population for the entire state.

In moving forward in this program, the Reclamation Bureau is currently investigating nine potential irrigation and multiple-purpose projects in Washington. The results of these studies and others to be undertaken as manpower and funds are made available will determine which developments are feasible from an economic and engineering standpoint. Some projects now included in the comprehensive list may be eliminated and new ones added.

Two Washington projects are in advanced stages of investigation. A preliminary project planning report on the Kennewick Project, embracing 21,000 irrigable acres near the city of that name, has been transmitted to Washington. If the final report, which is expected to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior next spring or summer, recommends the projects as feasible, appropriations would be sought for its early construction. The construction cost is estimated at $3,330,000.

A similar report is in the process of preparation for the East Unit of the Greater Wenatchee Project. Some 4,800 acres of potentially irrigable land are involved. This study, urgently requested by local people, is being pushed as rapidly as manpower and funds permit.

Next spring the Bureau hopes to initiate a comprehensive study to determine ways and means of providing a supplemental water supply for the Yakima Valley. This important investigation will determine the amount of additional water needed, and whether existing reservoirs can be enlarged or new ones will have to be constructed.

The west side of the Cascades is not being overlooked. The Bureau has been studying the Green-Puyallup Project and has completed a reconnaissance report on the Sequim Project. The report recommends a detailed study of the latter development, which we hope to undertake as soon as manpower and personnel permit.

The Bureau is conducting its project planning investigations in this state as part of the basin-wide study it is making of the entire drainage area of the Columbia River and its tributaries. The great value of the run-off of our streams demands an orderly program of development so that the Pacific Northwest will not be robbed of riches inherent in water through piecemeal construction of individual projects without consideration of the region as a whole. Mistakes today might penalize us forever.

We will study in Washington the main stem of the Columbia and that part of the Snake in the state, the Okanogan and the Methow, the Chelan and the Wenatchee, the Yakima and the Klickitat, the Cowlitz and the Dungeness, and many other rivers. No stream will have been overlooked when the last investigation has been completed, rest assured.

In the comprehensive report the Bureau is tying together all of its investigations, some dating back 25 years, and coordinating them with the pertinent findings of other agencies. The finished document will view the water resources of the Columbia River Basin in their entirety and will chart a logical course for their development to the end of providing maximum benefits at minimum cost. Such a viewpoint will avoid the pitfalls of haphazard procedure whereby works built to satisfy today's needs may hinder the attainment of tomorrow's benefits. Each structure built in accordance with the comprehensive Bureau plan will have full utility in the ultimate stage of development.

The preparation of the comprehensive report, a major activity in the Regional office at Boise for the past year, has now reached the point where I can say that, barring unforeseen difficulties, it will be ready for release to the public within the next two or three months.

It will be transmitted at that time to governors of the states in the Columbia River Basin for review and comments. This is in keeping with Federal policy of keeping local people advised concerning planning that will affect their everyday lives. The statements by the governors, together with those of other Federal agencies, will then be transmitted with the document to the President and the Congress.

A great many years will be required for consummation of the long-range plan, but as the Chinese proverb goes "The Journey of a Thousand Miles Commences with a Single Step." The Bureau has taken a good many steps and in the right direction, we believe.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region I - Boise, Idaho

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Plans for construction of the huge Columbia Basin Project in eastern Washington, largest of more than 200 irrigation and multiple-purpose developments in the Bureau of Reclamation's three billion dollar post-war program, moved a step nearer completion today when Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced he had approved the repayment and recordable contracts for the project.

The approval, recommended by Commissioner of Reclamation Harry W. Bashore, clears the way for immediate presentation of the contracts to the landowners who will vote on the agreements in a special election this spring. The State Columbia Basin Commission and directors of the three irrigation districts which embrace the 1,029,000-acre area, have already indicated tentative approval of the contracts.

Construction of irrigation facilities can be started as soon as war conditions permit after the landowners approve the contracts and Congress appropriates funds. The Bureau of Reclamation is prepared to begin work as soon as these conditions are met.

Under terms of the contract, the three irrigation districts will assume a maximum obligation of $87,465,000 toward repayment of construction costs on the irrigation system. This figure represents approximately 25 percent of the total costs allocated to irrigation, and amounts to an average of $85 per irrigable acre, payable over a 40-year period plus a ten-year development period. The remaining 75 percent of all costs allocated to irrigation, plus costs allocated to power-generation facilities, totaling approximately $399,000,000 will be repaid by revenues from sale of electric energy at the multiple-purpose Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River.

"No doubt the landowners will endorse the Columbia Basin repayment contract as heartily as have the board of directors of the irrigation districts," Secretary Ickes said. "It is fair both to the Federal Government in protecting the public's investment, and to the water users in adjusting the repayments on the basis of their ability to pay. The large percentage of the irrigation costs to be repaid to the Federal Treasury by power revenues from Grand Coulee Dam re-emphasizes the value of hydroelectric development on multiple-purpose projects.

"Except for its war food and war power programs, the preparation of plans and specifications for the irrigation features of this project has highest priority in the Bureau of Reclamation, and there will be no delay in beginning con-

struction when material, manpower, and funds are made available.

"As a potential shock-absorber during the transition from war to peace in the Pacific Northwest, the Columbia Basin Project has no equal. It will offer employment and settlement opportunities to qualified demobilized servicemen and war workers who will share in the building of this new agricultural and industrial empire in America. The Columbia Basin Project is our post-war 'ace-in-the-hole'.

"The project is the outstanding feature of the comprehensive regional plan which the Bureau of Reclamation is preparing for the most efficient multiple-purpose use of the water resources of the Columbia River system. An orderly, well-guided program of unified river development, such as the Bureau is drawing up, which gives due consideration to all the uses to which the waters can be put, is essential if the Pacific Northwest and the Nation are to receive the fullest measure of benefits from this great stream."

Commissioner Bashore also spoke enthusiastically about the repayment contract, particularly about provisions for adjusting repayment requirements to ability to pay. He quoted one of the most ardent boosters for the project as saying: "As conditions are today, it (the contract) is the world's best bargain."

The repayment contract stipulates that the portion of the project construction costs allocated for repayment by water users shall be repaid at the average rate of $85 per acre over a 40-year period, following a development period, of possibly ten years, during which no construction payments would fall due.

The charge to water users will vary according to the repayment ability of the different classes of land, based on (1) the land's relative productivity under irrigation, taking into consideration soils, topography, and other factors, (2) the estimated cost of land preparation, including clearing, leveling, and construction of farm ditches, and (3) the appraised dry-land value of the land. Operation and maintenance charges also may be varied among land classes according to ability to pay, at the discretion of the districts' directors.

The annual payments on construction costs will vary also from year to year, in accordance with the Reclamation Act of 1939. This law stipulates that if the current year's crop return is less than the normal return over a period of years, the annual installments due will be adjusted downward; if the returns exceed the average, the annual installments will be revised upward.

The project will be developed by blocks of a certain number of farm units, a new block to be brought in each year, or as rapidly as conditions warrant. Prior to the initial delivery of water to each irrigation block, the Secretary will establish farm units in that block, and file on record in the appropriate county auditor's office a plat showing the units.

Water will not be delivered to land which does not conform in area or boundaries to the established farm units, to lands not covered by a recordable contract, (which each landowner must sign), or to any person owning more than one farm unit,

which may vary in size according to the class of land included. The average size of farm will probably be approximately 60 acres of irrigable land, but owners who held title to their land on May 27, 1937, may retain a maximum of 160 acres.

Commissioner Bashore said that the low-cost hydroelectric power developed by the project would repay 75 percent of all costs allocated to irrigation, and also reduce operation and maintenance costs to water users. The contract provides that electric energy shall be made available for the primary pumping plant at the dam and secondary pumping plants in the irrigated area at the exceedingly low rate of ½ mill per kilowatt-hour. The energy will be transmitted from the dam to the project pumping plants over available Federal transmission lines without additional cost. Approximately one-fourth of the project lies at an elevation higher than that of the proposed canals, and will be served by pumps drawing from these canals.

Provisions are included in the contract to protect owners of wheatlands in the easterly portion of the project area from being forced to undertake irrigation farming at an early stage of the development. A number of these farmers may prefer, temporarily, to continue dry-land farming because of a wet weather cycle and high wartime prices for wheat.

The contract stipulates that it shall be the policy of the Government to undertake the construction of the two main canals for this area only upon the request of the districts involved, unless conditions make a delay impractical. As a further safeguard, the contract provides that the Bureau may not begin construction of laterals, sub-laterals and related works necessary to deliver water from the main canals to this area, and any other irrigation block in the project, unless requested to do so by the districts. The deferral shall be binding for not more than 25 years, unless the Secretary wishes to extend it.

The recordable contract, which the Secretary also approved, must be signed by each landowner before water will be delivered to his land. The repayment contract, on the other hand, is signed only by the district boards. The recordable contract states that the owner agrees to comply with provisions of the repayment contract, and of the Columbia Basin Project Act of March 10, 1943, which will govern the development and settlement of the project. This contract is the key to carrying out provisions of the Act which are designed to prevent speculation in lands, and to insure operation of lands in family-size units. The irrigation districts have already approved this agreement.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region I - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE to AMs of THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1945.

COULEE DAM, Wash. - Farmers in the vast Columbia Basin Project in eastern Washington will receive a $46,000,000 gross annual income from agricultural production if pre-war price levels prevail after full project development, the Bureau of Reclamation revealed today in announcing publication of a formal report by a "Joint Investigations Committee," which has studied the potentialities of the area to be brought under irrigation.

Investigators of Problem 2--"Types of Farming"--predict that livestock will provide 59 percent of the income and irrigated crops 41 percent, Regional Director Frank A. Banks said, in explaining the report. He declared that if present wartime prices had been the basis for the committee's estimate, the gross annual income would be more than doubled. The committee's figure is approximately the same as the pre-war average annual gross cash farm income in the entire State of Utah, or about 28 percent of the average annual return from the State of Washington for the period 1936 to 1940.

Although considerable latitude of choice exists as to the types of irrigation farming in which settlers of the Columbia Basin area can engage, those which combine both crops and livestock appear to have the best prospects for success for most operators, the report states. Dairying is expected to be the dominant livestock enterprise.

The objective of this Joint Investigations study was to determine the types of farming best suited to the project area on the basis of figures and experience gained from existing irrigation projects in the Pacific Northwest where conditions are relatively similar. The problem was one of 28 studied under the Joint Investigations during a four-year period by more than 100 representatives of local, State, and Federal agencies to bring about an orderly development and settlement of the vast area.

Construction of the Columbia Basin Project has been halted by the war, but it is at the top of the list of work which the Bureau of Reclamation proposes to undertake in the postwar era to provide employment and settlement opportunities for qualified servicemen, war workers, and others. The area will be brought under irrigation in blocks, new areas to be added each year or as quickly as conditions require. Water will be obtained from Lake Roosevelt (Columbia River Reservoir) at Grand Coulee Dam.

Investigators predict that normal yields for crops in the Columbia Basin will be approximately 10 percent greater per acre than the weighted

1935-1939 average of six Northwestern projects where physical and climatic conditions are similar (Boise, Idaho; Owyhee, Vale, and Umatilla, Oregon; and Yakima and Okanogan, Washington). Three main reasons were cited for the anticipated increased production. They are: (1) exclusion of poor quality soil and land with high seepage hazards from the irrigable acreage as result of more rigid land classification standards, (2) no late season water shortage, and (3) improved maintenance of the soil fertility because of progress in agricultural science.

Project lands are physically suited to a wide range of crops, including alfalfa, clovers, small grains, corn, flax, sugar beets, potatoes, mangels, field peas, onions, and many fruits and vegetables. The report emphasizes, however, that because of market limitations and other considerations, commercial production of intensive field crops, vegetables, and fruits should be confined largely to the land classes and the localities most favorable to their production.

Predictions of the committee are that a mature development 40 percent of the project land will be used for hay, 23 percent for pasture, 14 percent for small grains, 18 percent for other field crops, and 5 percent for fruit and vegetable crops. Compared with the 1935-1939 average of the six Northwestern projects previously mentioned, this is approximately the same percentage in hay and truck crops, substantially more in pasture and field crops, and less in small grains and tree fruits.

Tremendous quantities of machinery, material, livestock, and feed will be required during the initial years of development on the Columbia Basin Project, the investigators report. On the basis of past experience on Bureau of Reclamation projects, most of the equipment will be produced by manufacturers in the East and Middle West, emphasizing anew the nationwide benefits accruing from irrigation development in the West.

Assuming that 50,000 acres will be brought under irrigation during the first year, project farmers probably would need machinery and equipment valued at $760,000; buildings and fencing materials valued at $530,000; livestock valued at $340,000; and feed valued at $140,000--a total investment of $1,770,000.

Machinery needed will include plows, harrows, corrugators, floats, wagons, mowers, dump racks, hay derricks, and hay racks, potato cultivators, potato planters, grain drillers, harnesses, etc. Approximately 7,724,000 board-feet of rough lumber will be required during the first year, also 2,380,000 board-feet of finished lumber, 6,214,000 squares of shingles, 40,000 sacks of cement, 154,000 fence posts, 40,000 rods of woven wire, and 381,000 rods of barbed wire fence.

When the project is fully developed, the value of the land, buildings, livestock, machinery, and supplies on the 17,000 irrigated farms will total approximately $118,000,000, as compared with the present appraised value of

land, buildings, and improvements (exclusive of machinery, livestock, and supplies) of approximately $18,000,000. Thousands of acres of land now are covered with sagebrush and never have been farmed.

The report on Problem 2 consists of three main divisions. Part I presents a general description of the area and the agriculture expected to develop under irrigation, indicating acreage of important crops, numbers and kinds of livestock, crop and livestock yields, and volume of production. Part II consists of an analysis of a number of different types of prospective farm units, showing size and type of farm, kinds of farm enterprises, farm organization, man and horsework requirements, and expenses and income at the mature stage of development. In Part III attention is directed to conditions and problems of the development period, with emphasis on material, labor, and credit requirements necessary for developing representative farms. Also discussed are probable expenses and income for each year during the development period. The entire report may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at 75 cents per copy.

The investigators on the committee were representatives of Washington State College and Agricultural Experiment Station, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Soil Conservation Service, the Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

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SPECIAL FOR YAKIMA HERALD

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1946

BOISE, Idaho. — Appointment of Harold T. Nelson of Yakima as Assistant Regional Director in the Northwest office of the Bureau of Reclamation here was announced today by R. J. Newell, Regional Director. Nelson will have supervision over technical phases of the Reclamation program, particularly in the fields of construction, project planning, operation and maintenance, and power.

At the same time Mr. Newell announced the appointment of J. Lyle Cunningham of Boise as Assistant Regional Director with supervision over administrative and organizational phases of the program. Cunningham has been serving as an assistant to the Regional Director in the Boise office.

Nelson, who has been construction engineer of the Bureau's highly successful Roza Division of the Yakima Project in south central Washington, will come to the Regional office this month.

He has been with the Bureau since January 1936, joining the organization as an employee in the Denver office.

In announcing Nelson's appointment, Mr. Newell said that H. W. Pease, now with the Branch of Project Planning in Boise, will be appointed to head the Roza construction work. Pease is well known in the Yakima region, having served the Bureau there for a number of years.

Assistant Regional Director Nelson went to Yakima in May 1937 as an assistant engineer and was promoted through the grades to the position of construction engineer for the Bureau's $19,600,000 Roza Division. His experience also includes several years with the Kansas Highway Commission,

the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, National Park Service, and three years as instructor in Civil Engineering at Montana State College.

Nelsen was born in Great Falls, Montana, and was graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He received an M.S. degree from Kansas State College. At Idaho, Mr. Nelsen had the highest scholastic average of his class as well as the highest in the school of engineering.

Pease is a graduate of Dartmouth college and the Thayer School of Civil Engineering. His experience includes several years with the State Highway Departments of Washington and New Hampshire as well as employment with the Southern California Edison Company and other private companies. He came to the Bureau in 1935.

Cunningham has been in the Federal service for seven years as an employee of the Department of the Interior. All of his experience has been in the field of public administration, including several years with the Department of Budget and Research, Los Angeles County.

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