

FALSE IDEALISM MAY COST IDAHO MILLIONS

USE OF WATERS OF PARKS IN DEBATE

Eastern Point of View That West Has No Regard for Natural Treasures Declared to Be Untrue

By FRANK BECKER

THE East and the West are distinctly divided on the important development of Western lands, according to writers in national and local magazines and according to comments of local government officials. The matter is raging through government departments at Washington and has to do with the utilization of waste waters of the West, as opposed to the possible obliteration of some of the scenic beauties of the West.

The East contends that base materialism in the development of millions of fruitful acres will ruin some mountain meadows and waterfalls which future Eastern tourists might enjoy. The Westerners claim that they can make thousands of homes for poor Easterners who would never have a chance to see a waterfall anyway. The whole controversy is using up tons of paper pulp in printed matter, while Idaho, Utah and other intermountain states stand to lose hundreds of millions in future prosperity.

HOW QUESTION AROSE.

The question arose over the water power bill which included a provision for the utilization of waters in national parks.

An immediate protest arose in the East fathered by Emerson Hough in the Saturday Evening Post, who set forth at some length and with much vehemence that Yellowstone park was about to be stolen from the American people. He entitled his article "Fawing the Hellroom." He said that designing persons were seeking vast waterpower privileges and vast irrigation enterprises which would ultimately ruin Yellowstone park as any fit place for a sightseeing tour. He is followed in a later article by William C. Gregg in the latest issue of the same magazine in opposition to the Falls river project which would irrigate 200,000 acres, add \$10,000,000 worth of food products annually and supply homes for 10,000 additional persons along the Snake river in Idaho.

HOW IT AFFECTS IDAHO.

This controversy is of serious import to the people of Idaho and Utah especially because of ill-informed persons of the East are permitted to prevail in their propaganda, the West will always suffer when it comes to asking congressional appropriation for recreation wherever it may be, according to local government officials who are familiar with the situation.

The New West magazine of Salt Lake has taken up the battle and in its last issue carries several articles by men familiar with the Falls river project. They declare that a great swampy country in the far southwestern corner of Yellowstone park, never visited by tourists and not worth seeing, will simply be created into a life-giving lake whose waters will furnish food for future generations.

A WESTERN STATEMENT.

P. S. A. Bickel, among other contributors to the last issue of the New West, has this to say on the subject:

"The Fall river bill asks for the right to store and conserve waters to supplement the water supply to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land that will be the means of earning \$10,000,000 worth of food products annually and will support 10,000 additional people along the Snake river, Idaho.

"The land in the Yellowstone national park required for storage purposes covers about 8000 acres of swamp land, which is remote from travel and never visited or seen by the tourist, but only by a few trappers and fishermen.

"By means of this storage 200,000 acres of land will have a sufficient water supply to insure numerous well irrigated farms of alfalfa, sugar beets, trees and beautiful homes—so much more beautiful than the swamp of no value or scenic beauty, but infested with flies and mosquitoes during the summer months. It would therefore seem that there can be no argument in favor of not granting the use of this site for the storage of water.

PRIDE IN PARKS.

"The people of the Western states have as much regard for and are as proud of our national park and scenery as are the Eastern people, but the Western people understand more fully the needs of the West and go a little farther.

"Beauty is only skin deep; but usefulness combined with beauty is a wonderful combination and a blessing to those who have this, and a joy to all.

"It has been a great disappointment to the people in the West that a few people in the East, who are not familiar with the conditions in the West, have been able to hold back the progress of the West. We from the West are asking nothing more than that we may be granted the right at least to do what we find is best to manage our own homes as we find best to do."

TEAPOT TEMPEST.

"I believe it is a tempest in a teapot," said Ralph R. Woolley, hydraulic engineer of the geological survey, (Continued on Page 12.)

USE OF WATER

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with headquarters in Salt Lake City has visited most of the streams of the intermountain country. The modern method of conserving water does not desecrate scenery, but in many cases actually adds to the beauty of the country. There are billions of acre feet of waste water from the continental divide adjacent to Yellowstone dam which might be conserved without the aesthetic taste of anyone is not directly concerned in the river project, but we are interested in the future utilization of the waters of Green river, which irrigates thousands of acres to the west of the area of this state. Should the river project fail the proposed river project might go by, but also."

Ralph S. Kelley, chief of the service of the land office for Utah and Idaho, believes there is a danger of laying too much stress on the beauties to the detriment of the industrial possibilities. There is a danger in the fact that the propaganda is spread by persons who do not or will not understand the nature of the question. In its first stages, he says, reclamation of millions of acres in the West to increase the production of the nation is a matter of spending money to get more money. The location of dam and reservoir sites and power houses is a matter that could easily be adjusted between the prosaic business and the enthusiastic nature lover can both achieve their ends without doing violence to either.