

Early Start On Flood Dams Forecast

Gazette
March 29, 1939

Release of about \$3,000,000 of federal funds with which to begin construction of two multiple-purpose dams in Arkansas this year was forecast by Mayor Overman, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission, in a letter to Governor Bailey yesterday.

Mr. Overman named the Nimrod project on Fourche LaPave and the Blue Mountain dam on Petit Jean river in Logan county. Four other dams are included in the Arkansas program already authorized but for which no appropriations have been made. The total cost would be approximately \$53,000,000.

The mayor's report followed return of commission members from Washington, where they conferred with United States army engineers in an effort to obtain authorization of immediate construction "on at least one of the dams."

Interference Possible.
While he intimated assurance of early release of funds, Mayor Overman expressed the fear "private interests in power production" may delay actual work. He also declared that "if the next Congress be predominantly Republican or should a war develop in Europe," the program may be halted.

The mayor praised the co-operation of Arkansas's senators and congressmen in obtaining favorable action at a conference with Gen. Julian Schley, chief of staff of the army engineers.

"There has never been a time in Arkansas history when her representatives in Congress were not only willing to co-operate, but were in active accord for flood control work," the mayor's letter said.

"This was demonstrated at the meeting which was attended by Senators Caraway and Miller and Congressmen Terry, Kitchens, Ellis, Gathings, Mills and Norrell. Senator Miller acted as spokesman for the group and presented Arkansas's claims for early start of construction. He was given such assurance as could be expected."

Says Much Energy Imported.
Stressing the importance of the entire project, Mr. Overman declared the state is importing 54 per cent of its electrical energy "and in five years will be importing 75 per cent, according to indications."

"Power development in Arkansas *** should be welcomed by the private companies since the demand for cheap electricity is so pronounced," his letter said.

Members of the state commission who attended the Washington meeting were Mr. Overman, M. G. Greenon, T. L. Geren, Lamar Williamson, Layton Coifman, Ben Butler, John P. Morrow and W. C. McClure. They were accompanied by L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board.

Seven Dams In Ouachita Basin Favored

Gazette
4-9-39

Development of seven multiple use reservoirs on the Ouachita river and its tributaries for flood control, navigation, hydro-electric generation and recreational uses to the fullest extent of economic feasibility, was recommended in a joint report of state agencies to the U. S. Army Engineers yesterday. The recommendation was outlined in a letter of transmittal from Governor Bailey to Lieut. Col. Raymond G. Moses, Vicksburg District engineer.

Twenty state department heads, under the direction of L. A. Henry, engineer director of the state Planning Board, compiled the report.

Seven dams recommended are: The Blakely Mountain reservoir on the Ouachita river, which will be built by the Arkansas Power and Light Company with government aid, to provide flood control and power generation; Benton reservoir on the Saline river; the Narrows Dam on the Little Missouri river; a dam at Murfreesboro, on the Muddy Fork; and the Caddo Gap, Lenox and DeGrays' Bar on the Caddo river.

Flood Expenses Enumerated.
"The benefits would accrue from any system of reservoirs" would consist principally of lessened expenditures for flood repairs," the report said. "Such benefits would be tangible and are subject to fairly accurate determination when reservoir capacities are known for

flood control purposes. Intangible benefits, such as those resulting from uninterrupted traffic, are practically impossible to evaluate."

The report said \$231,000 flood damages are suffered annually in the Ouachita flood plains below Rammel Dam, and of that total, crop damages total \$100,000, and damage to state highways was estimated at \$63,000.

Heavy damage has been suffered by petroleum companies, railroads, utility companies, forests, public properties, such as levees, and public buildings, and natural resources. It was estimated that protection would provide a net appreciation of \$4,472,130.

Navigation Limited Now.
In regard to navigation, the report said it is evident the present 6 1-2 foot depth of the channel between Monroe, Louisiana, and Camden, limits the use of the river to a fraction of its potential traffic. The standard barges now in use, which require a nine-foot channel, are the most economical for river navigation.

Hydro-Electric Possibilities.
Concerning hydro-electric power, the report said market possibilities for electric power in Arkansas had materially increased during the past few years. An increase of 75,269 utility customers was estimated between 1932 and 1943. The number of kilowatt hours consumed in 1932 was 333,205,106. In 1938 the total was 519,766,374. The estimate for 1943 was 774,633,229 kilowatts.

Electric power is imported into the state at the present time, the report said, from the Tennessee Valley Authority, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Reports from the Arkansas Power and Light Company indicated increased power demands on two Louisiana plants will reduce the supply available to Arkansas.

The possibility of continued importation from the TVA at the expiration of its four-year contract with the Arkansas Power and Light Company is unknown. Arkansas cannot look to Oklahoma as a source for greater supply unless additional generating capacity is installed in Oklahoma, the report said.

Recreation and Health.
The report said recreational values at reservoir sites are intangible insofar as they refer to the individual, but they are entitled to some economic consideration.

Boating in the new completed development should produce new business amounting to between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year.

Camping, horse-back riding, hiking and nature study are other recreational uses that will be made of the areas surrounding the proposed lakes. Though the economic values of these types of recreation are hard to estimate there's a value to the area as well as to the participant, the report said.

In regard to malaria, the report said the most highly malarious section of the state is found in the counties adjacent to Bayou Bartholomew. This stream is exceedingly crooked and cluttered with debris. It overflows several times each year, leaving marshy mosquito breeding areas which persist until late summer. A channel clearance project for this tributary would unquestionably be justified through a reduction of malaria cases alone, the report said.

Flood Control Leaders Feted At Heber Springs.

4-13-39

Special to the Gazette.
Heber Springs, April 13.—R. E. Overman of Little Rock, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission and former Little Rock mayor, spoke at a flood control luncheon at the Legion hut here today. Thomas J. Whitaker, president of the Young Business and Professional Men's Club, presided.

Senator Gene Houston of Heber Springs introduced John Morrow of Batesville, a member of the Flood Control Commission, who introduced army engineers and Flood Control Commission members. O. B. Robbins of Heber Springs spoke on "What the Dam, Electricity and Irrigation Would Mean to Heber Springs."

Mr. Overman said he is interested in seeing the construction of a dam on

Little Red river at Greer's ferry, near here.

After the luncheon the party motored to the site of the dam, work on which will be started in July.

Water Conservation Outlined In Planning Report.

4-18-39

Scores of flood control, water supply and stream pollution abatement projects—to cost hundreds of millions of dollars—were proposed in a three-year report of the Water Resources Committee of the state Planning Board yesterday.

The report was written by Marion L. Crist, Little Rock Municipal Waterworks engineer. It was based on surveys conducted by members of the committee, of which Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, is chairman. Publication of the report was authorized. Copies will be available in about two weeks, Dr. Branner said.

"The proposals were advanced as a guide for future generations," he declared. "They indicate the projects which should be sponsored to care for

the over-supply of water produced by about 48 inches of rainfall annually.

"Half of the state is composed of lowlands. Unprotected areas are flooded almost every year by the Arkansas, Mississippi, White and Red rivers which are swollen with run-off waters from other states."

The study of water supply was considered an important phase of the survey, Dr. Branner said. It includes drainage, municipal supply, recreation, navigation and mosquito control. The report proposed 21 projects in the Arkansas river basin, 14 in the White and Black river basin, 16 in the Ouachita, 17 in the Red and 18 in the Lower Mississippi. It also recommended 151 pollution abatement projects, 56 flood control units and 56 miscellaneous undertakings for completion or further study.

Testing for Foundation Dam On Northfork Starts This Week.

6-7-39

Special to the Gazette.
Mountain Home, June 6.—Engineers from the United States engineers' office, Little Rock, will start testing the foundation at the new damsite on the Northfork river with core drills this week. This site is about a mile below the Friend ferry site which already has been drilled out. Since the Senate passed the flood control appropriation bill last week, it is believed that the Northfork dam will be built. The bill allocated \$750,000 for work on this dam.

Construction of this dam will have an influence in flood control on the lower river, and if built as a dual dam will produce a tremendous amount of power, it was said. The dam will be approximately 186 feet high, and the reservoir created will have a storage capacity of 1,700,000 acre feet. It will produce in prime capacity continuous power 19,900 kilowatts, with an installed capacity of 67,000 kilowatts. The estimated cost of the dam, reservoir and power house complete is \$21,661,000. A dam of this height would back water up approximately 45 miles, which would put the head of the reservoir or lake above the Missouri line.

Two small towns probably will be inundated if the dam is built. They are Henderson in Baxter county, and Bakersfield in Ozark county, Missouri.

Work on New Dam Will Be Started Soon

6-15-39

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, June 14.—The Arkansas Power and Light Company is expected to begin work of constructing its new \$6,000,000 flood control dam on the upper Ouachita not later than September, it was reported here today. Following "Arkansas Day" at the New York World's Fair, Harvey C. Couch, president, and Chief Engineer Lynch, of the power company, will go to Washington for a final conference with government officials regarding this big project. It is the only power dam in the nation to be built by a private company with the government as a partner.

The dam will be 175 feet high, and water will cover 35,000 acres. It will be located 11 miles northwest of Hot Springs. Work of building the camp that will accommodate about 700 men is expected to get under way in a month.

New Roads Being Built.
A new 25-foot gravel road from Mountain Pine, which connects with Highway 270, has been built. It is six and a half miles long, and from Mountain Pine to the site of the new dam, another road, two miles long, is under construction. The county also will have to construct a new road from Glacier Peak to Jessieville, which will connect with the Mount Tabor road and run around the base of Blakely mountain. The new road will connect with what will be left of the road to McFadden Springs, most of the latter highway being under water when the new dam is completed.

It was said that the Three Sisters springs, which have been known for many years for their curative properties, will not be damaged by the water backed up from the new dam.

It also was reported today that the Arkansas Power and Light Company had agreed to replace the all-steel bridge below Carpenter dam that was washed out a few months ago.

\$5,500,000 Allotted For Flood Control

Gazette
6-30-39

More than \$5,500,000 of federal funds will be made available tomorrow to help protect eight sections of Arkansas from floods.

The allotments, included in a War Department appropriation bill signed by President Roosevelt, will be used to enlarge existing levees, build new ones, construct three reservoirs and complete the St. Francis river protective system, United States army engineers here said.

The projects, most of which have been nursed to realization by engineers and the Arkansas Flood Control Commission for several years, will include:

St. Francis Reservoir and Levees.
The new appropriation of \$2,380,000 is part of an ultimate cost of \$16,000,000. Work began two years ago. It includes construction of the Wappapello reservoir, which will require another year to complete. Existing levees will be enlarged, strengthened and lengthened in the St. Francis river valley, which includes its tributary, the Little river. The entire system of levees must be finished before residents of the valley will be assured of protection in the event of a repetition of the 1927 flood. The Little river link will be handled by the Memphis District of the army engineers.

Norfolk Reservoir.
Norfolk reservoir. The appropriation is \$750,000. The ultimate cost will be approximately \$11,000,000. It will be the first step in flood control on the upper White river, preceding development at Wildcat Shoals and Lone Rock. The dam will be built south of Mountain Home in Baxter county and will provide what is said to be the largest hydro-electric plant in Arkansas. The Flood Control Commission and Arkansas state officials have endorsed this project several years. They will continue efforts to obtain funds to build additional dams at Lone Rock and Wildcat Shoals in Arkansas and Table Rock in Missouri.

Little Rock-Gillette Reservoir.
Little Rock-to-Gillette levee. A new appropriation of \$300,000 is part of the \$1,000,000 total cost. Work on this project began in 1938. The levee on the north side of the Arkansas river, beginning at Rose City, has been half completed to Plum Bayou, and the remaining portion is about 50 per cent finished. Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer of the Little Rock District, said. The entire distance is 110 miles, including the Plum Bayou and Farrelly Lake levees, which will be enlarged. The gaps will be filled. The Memphis District of army engineers will complete the work from Pine Bluff south.

Hempstead County Levee District No. 1.
An appropriation of \$85,000 was approved. The levee on Red river near Fulton will be strengthened.

Nimrod Reservoir.
Nimrod reservoir. The new appropriation of \$700,000 is included in an ultimate cost of about \$2,500,000. The reservoir will be built on Fourche La Fave river, 60 miles west of Little Rock. The release of \$700,000 that near Little Rock will result in a noticeable upswing in business, in the opinion of former Mayor R. E. Overman, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission. He credited Congressman D. D. Terry with forcing the project to an issue. He said there are "power possibilities" at the site.

Eudora Floodway.
Eudora floodway. A small appropriation of \$100,000 probably will be used to acquire additional lands, engineers said. The original Mississippi river spillway, fathered by Senator Overton of Louisiana in 1928, was to cost \$110,000,000. The plan of the project was to prepare for a break in the levee during a disastrous flood by building a fuse plug which could be opened when the water reached a critical stage, to send the overflow through the Eudora basin. The "track will be greased" for future floods, Mr. Overman said. The work will be directed by the Mississippi River Commission at Vicksburg, Miss.

White River Backwater Levee.
White river backwater levee. The new appropriation is \$1,500,000. The project embraces Laconia Circle below Clarendon and between the White and Mississippi rivers. The levee will loop from Old Town to the White river, following that stream to join the main Mississippi river levee at Laconia Circle.

Missouri Reservoir of Interest.
Another reservoir was included in the bill that will affect Arkansas. It is the Clear river proposal in Missouri, which will protect land along the Black river south of Poplar Bluff.

Actual work on the reservoirs cannot begin until engineers acquire the necessary lands and complete designs. Captain Washbourne said. He estimated preliminary activities will require "several months." Core drilling to explore the foundation at Nimrod may begin earlier, he said.

Mr. Overman said the Flood Control Commission will meet at its new offices in the Professional building July 12 to map its work for the fiscal year.

Funds Provided to Begin Work In Baxter County.

Special to the Gazette.

Harrison, June 29.—The flood control bill, signed today by President Roosevelt, provides funds to start construction of Norfolk dam in Baxter county. Congressman Clyde T. Ellis telegraphed leaders here.

The combination flood control and hydro-electric development will cost approximately \$11,000,000 and will be the largest hydro-electric dam in the state and the first federal dam project in Arkansas. The dam will be located south of Mountain Home. Construction will require from two to three years.

Mountain Home, Baxter county seat, expects a substantial boom during and after the construction period. Army engineers have completed surveys of the dam site.

Funds Provided to Resume Work On White River Levee.

Special to the Gazette.

Helena, June 29.—Additional money to carry on work of constructing the White river backwater levee project was provided today when President Roosevelt signed the \$305,188,514 appropriation bill for 1940 rivers and harbors and flood control projects.

Judge J. G. Burke said that \$39,000,000 of the money was for flood control work on the lower Mississippi and that the White river drainage and levee district would receive \$1,500,000.

There was left over from a previous appropriation \$500,000 and this, together with the new appropriation, is expected to prove ample to carry on the work.

Contracts for the construction of 3,066,000 additional cubic yards of earth work on the White river levee will be awarded at the United States engineers district office, near Memphis, July 13.

This work will be in addition to that started last year and for which contracts already are held. Work on the old contracts was halted last fall because of the rainy season.

Core Drilling for Dam-Site On Northfork Progresses.

Special to the Gazette.

Mountain Home, June 29.—Core drilling at the new dam-site on the Northfork river will be finished in about 30 days. Cores from a hole on the bluff on the west side of the river, which will support one side of the structure, are solid limestone. Drilling operations are about eight miles from Mountain Home, and four miles from Norfolk, at the mouth of the river. County Judge R. M. Rutherford said that a road to the dam-site will be built soon.

NORFOLK'S DAM TO START NEW ERA, SAYS ELLIS

Congressman Happy Over Victory.

7-2-39
Gazette

"The appropriation for the Norfolk reservoir is the beginning of a great day in the Ozarks," Congressman Clyde T. Ellis said during a visit to Little Rock yesterday.

The congressman, vigorous sponsor of hydro-electric development of the White river valley was more than satisfied with the \$750,000 appropriation included in the War Department supply bill which has been signed by President Roosevelt. The dam ultimately will cost about \$12,000,000 and take three years for construction.

The Norfolk reservoir is the first step in what Congressman Ellis believes eventually will be a series of dams on the upper White river valley which will control flood waters, provide cheap electricity and make navigation possible up to Cotter.

"You and I will live to see the day when commercial boats will operate up to Cotter," he declared.

The greatest advantage to be derived by the Ozarks region from the Norfolk flood-control hydro-electric dam will be cheap electricity, he said. He believes cheap electricity is all that is needed for development of lead and zinc, manganese and numerous other ore deposits in the area. There also are plentiful supplies of limestone, phosphate and some nitrate which can be used to improve Arkansas's soils.

The dam has been endorsed by Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of army engineers. Congressman Ellis said the

general favors its early construction. President Roosevelt also knows all the details of the project, and surprised Mr. Ellis with his accurate knowledge when the congressman called at the White House offices to urge approval of the appropriation.

Dam Will Create Lake Containing 27,200 Acres.

The dam will be located south of Mountain Home in Baxter county. It will be 195 feet high, 2,288 feet long, and will create a lake of 27,200 acres. Water will back up behind the dam from the south end of Baxter county between 35 and 45 miles into Missouri. Total capacity of the lake will be 1,700,000 acre feet.

The hydro-electric plan will be able to produce an estimated 217,000,000 kilowatt hours per year. The 1,700,000 acre lake will be divided as follows: 750,000 acre feet for flood control, 510,000 for power draw down, and 440,000 acre feet dead storage.

In times of heavy rainfall, the water will be stored and released during dry periods.

Actual construction is expected to start within a year. It will require approximately 30 days for army engineers to perfect measurements. Then the design must be drawn, bids advertised, the contractor's qualifications investigated and the contractor allowed from 30 to 60 days to assemble equipment.

During the peak of construction, Mr. Ellis said 3,000 men will be employed. Greatest amount of labor will be required to clear the 27,200-acre lake bed of every tree and stump.

Only two small hamlets will be affected. They are Henderson in Arkansas and Bakersfield in Missouri. Most of the prospective lake is in cut-over timber. No railroad or highway right-of-way will be moved, but the fill on Highway 62 near Henderson will be raised. A few business buildings in Henderson will be moved to higher ground, while Bakersfield will be inundated.

Other Developments Expected To Follow Building of Dam.

Congressman Ellis has been working for the dual-purpose development of the White river valley for flood control, cheap power and recreation for four years.

He has made the Norfolk reservoir his greatest mission since he entered Congress for his first term. He asked the advice of the veteran Senator Norris of Nebraska on how to secure approval of a White river valley project. Senator Norris advised him to work for one, and said the others would come later. With the \$750,000 appropriation to start the Norfolk dam in sight, Mr. Ellis plans to continue his efforts.

In the original budget estimate only \$100,000 was allotted the Norfolk project. Mr. Ellis, in asking General Schley to increase the allotment, was told that the appropriation would have to be increased by \$25,000,000 if the funds were increased. Mr. Ellis and Congressman D. D. Terry of Little Rock led the successful fight on the House floor to increase the appropriation from \$110,000,000 to \$135,000,000.

Mr. Ellis explained that in the original budget estimate \$80,000,000 of the \$110,000,000 was in a lump sum, to be prorated by the army engineers to projects under construction with only \$30,000,000 to start new projects. Since

Norfolk has been started, he said its funds will be in the lump sum appropriation hereafter and it will receive increases as needed.

Springfield and Kansas City, Mo., have signified their intention of using power from Norfolk. Rural electrification co-operatives are signing contracts for current on a two-year basis, looking to the completion of the dam and its cheap electricity.

Mr. Ellis to Speak At Celebration at Springdale.

Mr. Ellis came to Arkansas to address a July 4 rally at Springdale, Washington county, and will leave for Washington Tuesday night. He will quote Federal Power Commission figures at Springdale showing the difference in electric rates there and those at Tupelo, Miss., using TVA "yardstick" rates.

HEAVY BUILDING IN SOUTH ABOVE NINE-YEAR MARK

7-3-39

Blakeley Mountain Dam Included. Gazette

Baltimore, Md., July 2 (AP).—Construction contracts awarded in the South during the first six months of this year mounted to \$452,480,000, the largest figure for any similar period within the last nine years, the Construction Daily Bulletin reported today.

Much of the total, it added, is due to the tremendous sums the federal government has been pouring into public works and buildings, rural electrification and publicly owned power developments.

Private contracts were tabulated at more than one-tenth below the level reached during the first half of 1938, but public work is almost three-quarters ahead.

Contracts for June alone amounted to \$59,004,000. That amount is larger by one-third than for the first six months of last year.

Road and Bridge Work Retains Stability.

"Road and bridge construction totaling \$93,480,000 for the first six months is slightly ahead of that in the same period of last year, this type of working having maintained a greater stability than any other phase of the construction field," the Bulletin said.

"Mississippi and Texas have led the field with programs showing awards totaling \$17,000,000 and \$15,000,000 respectively. Among other active states are Maryland, Alabama, Virginia and West Virginia."

Ouachita River Project Helps Swell South's List.

"Industrial construction during this year has not assumed the proportions of

the same period for 1938, although removal of the excess profits tax is hoped to encourage expansion of manufacturing facilities," the Bulletin stated.

"The Arkansas Power and Light Company expects soon to start work on construction of its \$6,000,000 project on the upper Ouachita river near Hot Springs.

Duke Power Company has its \$7,500,000 Cliffs, N. C., development under construction and the Virginia Electric Power Company and Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power Companies are going ahead with projects costing over \$3,000,000.

"High spots in the paper field are the two mills now under construction in Alabama and Texas. Hollingsworth and Whitney Company, manufacturers of white paper, are erecting the Alabama plant at Mobile. This is the deep South's first plant of its kind.

"At Lufkin, Tex., the Southland Mills is now rushing construction on the South's first newsprint mill at a cost of \$5,000,000. The Ecusta Paper Corporation is now finishing its \$2,000,000 cigarette paper plant at Brevard, N. C. This is the first in the country and will make the paper from North Carolina flax.

"Celanese Corporation's \$10,000,000 plant at Pearisburg, Va., is the outstanding one under construction in the chemical field."

U. S. Engineers Here Receive \$2,561,000

7-8-39 Gazette

Approximately \$2,561,000 for construction work and preliminary examinations and surveys of flood control projects in the Little Rock District, U. S. Army Engineers for the fiscal year which began July 1, were received here yesterday it was announced by Capt. D. W. Griffiths, operations officer. Four major reservoirs are included in the allotments.

For the Nimrod dam on the Fourche la Fave river, the allotment is \$700,000. For Blue Mountain dam on the Petit Jean river, \$400,000.

For Norfolk dam on the North Fork of White river, \$400,000.

For Clearwater dam on the Black river, \$250,000.

For preliminary examinations and surveys, \$336,000.

The Nimrod and Clearwater projects are further advanced than the other two dams, and work will be pushed on foundation exploration and design of these two dams, Captain Griffiths said. Bids for foundation explorations at the Clearwater site will be received July 17. Similar bids on the Nimrod site were received Thursday.

Designing of the two dams will be started as soon as results of the foundation explorations can be obtained. It is probable the two projects will be advertised for construction late next spring, and construction started during the summer, Captain Griffiths said.

Preliminary work on the Blue Mountain and Norfolk dams will proceed.

Lieutenant Armstrong Transferred.
Lieut. Charles A. Armstrong, stationed recently at Pine Bluff in connection with levee construction, has been assigned as assistant to the district engineer at Conchas Dam, N. M.

Core Drilling To Begin Soon At Nimrod Site. 7-15-39 Gazette

Core drilling operations and foundation explorations are expected to get under way next week at the Nimrod dam site, 15 miles southeast of Danville, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer of the Little Rock engineer district, said yesterday.

Equipment of the Jones Core Drilling Company of Mineral Wells, Tex., is being moved into the area, Captain Washbourne said. Approximately 90 days will be required for completion of the work.

Capt. D. W. Griffiths, operation officer, and Frank Gruver, assistant chief of the operations division, left yesterday for Newport and Corning to inspect flood wall construction near the two towns.

Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer, and Capt. T. F. Kern, chief of the engineering division, went to Sardis, Miss., to inspect the Sardis dam site on the Tallahatchie river. The project is in the Vicksburg district.

Bids for core drilling and foundation exploration at the Clearwater dam site on the Black river in Missouri will be opened Monday, Captain Washbourne said.

Flood Control Commission Defers Appointments. 6-11-39

Appointment of two engineers and a secretary will not be made until the state Flood Control Commission meets in July, Chairman R. E. Overman said yesterday. Applicants for the positions were interviewed by the commission members recently.

The new employees will assemble data pertaining to flood control proposals in several offices, including the United States army engineers, with which to prepare a coherent story of the commission's objectives, Mr. Overman said. "In that way we can co-ordinate our ambitions," he asserted. "The various proposed projects will be brought into a single brochure to give the picture of Arkansas's needs at a glance."

Mr. Overman said the state Flood Control Commission "is attempting to do its best with a \$12,000 annual appropriation, in comparison to the work in Oklahoma where \$300,000 is available and in Louisiana where \$400,000 was appropriated."

Northfork Dam Site Inspected

7-23-39

Special to the Gazette.

Mountain Home, July 22.—Col. Stanley L. Scott, chief of United States engineers in this district, accompanied by J. L. Justin, Captain Kern and Mr. Lubie, arrived here last night for an inspection of the work in progress on the Northfork dam site. Mr. Justin is a consulting engineer of Philadelphia, and the author of several books on dams and hydro-electric power. Dr. Glenn, of Vanderbilt University, Department of Geology, has been in this region for the past week, studying the geology at the Northfork site and the Wild Cat Shoals site on White river, above Cotter.

Cores Satisfactory.

Drilling has been in progress on the Northfork site for several weeks and the foundation, as far as it has been drilled out, has been found satisfactory. Drilling will be continued for several weeks, until all of the best sites have been tested. The most economical site will be used.

It will take about a year to draft the dam plans and begin the project. It is probable that a railroad track will be built from the Missouri Pacific line at Norfolk, up the river to the

dam site to move materials. A good highway also will be constructed. It will take approximately three years to complete the structure after active work is started.

Land which will be inundated and bought by the government will be appraised parcel by parcel. It will be about six months before maps are available showing the land which will be covered.

Table Rock Dam Plans Complete.
Preliminary work on Table Rock dam, in Taney county, Missouri, practically has been finished and the report completed. Work on Wild Cat Shoals above Cotter and Flippin is incomplete, and it probably will be several weeks before the report on this project and Table Rock will be issued.

Engineers Studying Effects Of Proposed Norfolk Dam.

Special to the Gazette, 7-28-39

Mountain Home, July 27.—James P. Gallager of the Roads Division, and W. A. Poe of the Bridge Division of the Arkansas Highway Department, have begun a survey of the roads, bridges and highways which will be inundated when the Northfork dam is constructed. They probably will work here for two weeks. A part of U. S. Highways 62, a WPA highway which connects Highways 62 and 5, and several county roads will be inundated.

Biggest loss will be the bridge, across the Norfolk river at Henderson on Highway 62. This bridge was constructed several years ago at a cost of approximately \$200,000. It will be under 50 feet of water when the reservoir is full. The new bridge on the bayou near Custer also will be submerged, as well as several smaller ones. Highway Department representatives will try to locate another site for the Henderson bridge.

Congressman Clyde Ellis has notified officials here that Senator Bailey's action, asking that all projects over \$10,000,000 be held up, will have no effect on the construction of the Northfork dam. It would affect only those projects in the rivers and harbors bill he said. He said as far as legislation is concerned, the Northfork project is assured.

Funds Arrive For Work On Reservoirs 7-29-39

Approximately \$304,025 for work on four additional flood control reservoirs in Arkansas was received at the Little Rock District United States army engineers' office yesterday. Allotments were received earlier in the month for the beginning of construction on four approved projects.

The allotments yesterday were for preparation of definite plans on the four reservoirs and will consist of mapping, foundation explorations and tentative designs, Capt. Lee Washbourne, district executive officer, said.

The reservoirs and allotments were: Water Valley on the Eleven Point river, eight miles west of Pocahontas, \$55,800.

Greens Ferry on the Little Red river near Heber Springs, \$80,075.

Bell Foley on the Strawberry river, \$68,150.

Lone Rock, at the mouth of the Buffalo river, 10 miles southeast of Cotter, \$100,000.

Surveys to Be Started.
Captain Washbourne said survey parties will be placed in the field as soon as possible to begin mapping the proposed dam sites and reservoir areas. Work is under way on the four reservoirs for which allotments were received earlier in the month, and actual construction will begin early next year. The project include Nimrod on the Fourche la Fave river; Clearwater on the Black river near Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Norfolk on the north fork of the White river, and Blue Mountain on the Petit Jean river.

Commission Pleased.
R. E. Overman, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission, said in a statement last night the "commission is highly elated at the news as it has worked closely with Arkansas's congressional delegation to secure further consideration of the streams in Arkansas that lend themselves so readily to flood control development."

Mr. Overman said the four new reservoirs are "important units of a general flood control program badly needed by the state for the prevention of floods, conservation of soil and water and the generation of hydro-electric power."

"It is hoped that in the next session of Congress, additional appropriations will be forthcoming for carrying out the ultimate construction of three dams on which work has already begun, namely Nimrod, Blue Mountain and Norfolk reservoirs," he said.

Flood Control Proposal Disapproved

7-30-39 Gazette

The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors at Washington has declined to sanction the recommendations of Brig. Gen. Harley B. Ferguson, division engineer, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, Miss., concerning flood control improvements on the Little Missouri river in Arkansas, it was announced by the board yesterday.

The division engineer recommended channel improvement of the Little Missouri below Murrefreesboro and on Terre Noire and Ozan creeks, and the construction of the Narrows Reservoir in the combined interests of power and flood control. It was understood that if a power market could not be assured the dam and reservoir could be constructed with provisions for future installation of power, it said.

The announcement said that after full consideration of survey reports of the district and division engineers, the "board is not convinced of the advisability of the federal government undertaking the improvements recommended by the division engineer."

The survey was made under the authority of the Flood Control Act passed by Congress June 22, 1936.

Preliminary Work At Water Valley Begins.

Aug. 4, 1939

Bids for foundation exploration and core drilling at the Water Valley dam site on Elevenpoint river, seven miles west of Pocahontas, were opened yesterday and will be received until 11 a. m. August 31 at the United States District Army Engineers' office here. Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer, said yesterday.

The exploration work will be started as soon as possible, Captain Washbourne said. The Water Valley project which was approved by Congress in the 1938 Flood Control Act, was one of the reservoirs for which allotments were received last week. Approximately \$55,800 was received to begin the work. The government's estimate of the cost of the completed project is approximately \$9,000,000.

Captain Washbourne said about 45 days will be required to complete the work following the award of contract.

Flood Control Board Elects C. W. Christian

8-11-39

Charles W. Christian of Little Rock, former state highway engineer, was elected engineer of the state Flood Control Commission at a meeting held at Batesville yesterday. An appropriation made by the 1939 legislature provides for employment of an engineer by the commission for the first time. Mr. Christian's election was by unanimous vote.

Governor Bailey met with the group and joined in discussion of extensive plans for flood control survey work during the coming year. The newly appointed engineer will compile data covering several proposed Arkansas flood control projects in preparation for a hearing before the Flood Control Committee of the House of Representatives when Congress convenes in January. Among the suggested projects for which detailed information will be prepared are those of Bayou Meto, Galine river, Caddo river, Little Missouri river, Cadron creek, Spring river, Point Remove, Bayou Bartholomew, Cache river, Rolling Ford river and Cossatot river.

Commission members attending the meeting were: R. E. Overman, Little Rock; Ben P. Butler, Osceola; John P. Morrow, Batesville; Layton Coffman, Harrison; T. L. Geren, Fort Smith; Lamar Williamson, Monticello; M. W. Greeson, Prescott, and W. C. McClure, Camden, executive secretary.

Members of the group were entertained on a government boat for a cruise up White river, and they were luncheon guests of Mr. Morrow. County Judge D. D. Adams assisted in arrangements for the meeting.

Several members of the commission said that they will attend a meeting at Prescott September 11 by the United States Board of Engineers for Rivers

Work to Begin On Nimrod Dam in Spring

8-13-39

Actual construction will begin early next spring on the \$3,000,000 Nimrod dam on the Fourche La Fave river in Perry county, six miles south of Ola, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer of the district U. S. Army engineer office, said yesterday. The announcement followed official approval of the project by the chief of engineers at Washington.

The dam will be a concrete gravity structure for flood control purposes, although provisions for future installation of hydro-electric power will be included in designs for the dam. Tentative designs have been in preparation several months, Captain Washbourne said.

A suggestion that crown of the dam might serve as a new bridge for state Highway No. 7 was voiced by W. W. Mitchell, state highway director. Mr. Mitchell said district engineers had informed him of the possibilities of such a plan if the state Highway Department would construct approaches to the dam. The bridge now lies approximately one-half mile east of the dam site.

Foundation explorations and core drilling work have been completed, and construction by contract will be started next spring, Captain Washbourne said. Three years will be required for the completion of the dam. Approximately \$700,000 has been appropriated for work at the dam site, and additional funds are expected next year.

The reservoir area resulting from the dam structure will control floods greater than any on present record on the Fourche La Fave river, Captain Washbourne said. The capacity of the reservoir will be in excess of 300,000 acre feet, he said. The dam structure will be in Perry county but the reservoir area will be almost entirely in Yell county.

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Work on Dams Progressing In Baxter

8-17-39

Special to the Gazette.

Mountain Home, Aug. 17.—Engineers have completed a survey for a four-mile railroad spur running from Norfolk, on the White River division of the Mis-

souri Pacific, to the Northfork damsite. The spur will be used for movement of heavy material when construction of the dam starts. It is expected that work on the spur will start early next fall. A survey will be made soon for a highway running from Norfolk to the damsite.

Many people are coming to Mountain Home with a view to locating here. Most of the land overlooking the Northfork river valley, near Henderson, has changed hands the last few weeks. Other potential lake frontage sites also have been sold.

Dam to Be 200 Feet High.
The Northfork dam will be 200 feet high with a 2,600-foot crest. It will create a clear water mountain lake about 47 miles long, with nearly 1,000 miles of shore line.

Engineers also are at work on the Lone Rock dam project, for which \$100,000 recently was set aside. This site is located near the mouth of Buffalo river, close to the little mountain village of Lone Rock, and just across the river from Buffalo, on the White River division of the Missouri Pacific. It also is in Baxter county. This dam if built will be about 100 feet high and will create a lake about 35 miles long at the heart of the zinc mining district in Marion and Baxter counties.

Wild Cat Shoals.
Surveys also are being made on the Wild Cat shoals dam on White river in a Baxter and Marion counties. Several sites are being investigated, up and down the river from the old location of Wild Cat shoals.

If all the dams are built in Baxter county that now are projected, the entire topography of the county would be changed. It will consist of three big lakes, dozens of islands and a large peninsula, with Mountain Home, the county seat, in the center.

Many-Purpose Dams, Levees Proposed

7-9-39

Multiple-purpose dams and levees to develop power and prevent floods in Arkansas, estimated to cost \$179,000,000, were approved by the Southwest Mississippi Basin "A" Committee of the National Resources Committee at the Albert Pike hotel Friday.

Representatives of four states, headed by Earl O. Mills of Dallas, committee counselor, agreed on the first definite program for development of water resources in Arkansas since 1937. They were in session all day.

The Basin "A" Committee is one of 45 which are conferring in the nation on a long-time planning program which, members said, ultimately is hoped to provide freedom from floods and to obtain an economical system of hydro-electric power.

Multiple Project Of Four Units Proposed.

The largest single project is a series of multiple-purpose dams and reservoirs for power development and with some benefit to flood control:

Beaver dam on White river, \$8,540,000.

Galena dam on James river, Missouri, \$9,660,000.

Mill creek dam on Buffalo fork of White river, \$9,330,000.

Rush creek dam on Buffalo fork, \$6,240,000.

Total, \$23,770,000.

This project is listed "indeterminate," meaning that it will not be advanced until others, many of which already have received congressional approval, are further advanced.

L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board and chairman of the Recreation Development Sub-Committee of the Basin "A" Committee, said those developments which eventually are included in appropriations will be completed "within 15 or 20 years." He predicted most of the "immediate" classification will be realized much earlier.

Three projects classed as of immediate importance in 1937 were approved and funds appropriated in a bill signed by President Roosevelt last week. Partial allotments were made for each, assuring early start of construction. They are the Nimrod reservoir on Fourche La Fave river, Blue Mountain reservoir on Petit Jean river and Norfolk dam on north fork of White river.

NORTH FORK RIVER DAM TO BE BOON TO NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Gazette

8-20-39

Special to the Gazette.

Calico Rock, Aug. 19.—at least three towns in north Arkansas are anticipating an increase in business activity during the next two or three years as a result of the proposed dam on North Fork river. The towns are Calico Rock, Norfork and Mountain Home.

Norfolk probably will derive the largest volume of business, due to the fact that it is only about three miles from the proposed dam site. Norfolk will be the loading and unloading point for much of the materials, and plans are under way to construct a railroad spur from the Missouri Pacific tracks at Norfolk along the river to the dam site. Plans also are under consideration to build a first class highway from Norfolk to the dam.

Norfolk Gets Ready for Boom. Anticipating an increase in business, Norfolk already has started getting ready for the boom. Several new structures are being built, and the theater is being modernized. Many residents who have houses available are expecting to "cash in" on the booming trade, as hundreds of persons employed on the dam will have to have some place to live and something to eat while here. By the time the dam construction gets fully under way, several new houses will be completed.

Norfolk is about half-way between Calico Rock and Mountain Home, the distance to either town from Norfolk being about 12 or 14 miles. All three towns are on Highway 5.

Calico Rock, being a railroad town, may have a slight edge commercially over Mountain Home, but Mountain Home, being the county seat of Baxter county, the county in which the dam will be built, will be able to offset the handicap of not having a railroad. Headquarters for some of the engineers likely will be at Mountain Home.

Both Calico Rock and Mountain Home are anticipating an increase in business when the work is well under way. Many employes probably will locate their families at one of these towns because of a possible lack of housing facilities in the little town of Norfolk. Norfolk is not as large as Mountain Home or Calico Rock.

Many to Be Employed. Aside from the benefits the three towns will derive from the project, thousands of dollars will be dumped into the pockets of the residents employed on the gigantic job. Leaders hope the building of the dam will do for this section what the construction of the Missouri Pacific railroad did for it early this century. The railroad was built just after the section had suffered a setback due to a drought. The building of the dam will be a boon to labor, which has suffered because of the depression.

Then, far beyond the present advantages to be gained by the dam construction, farsighted leaders see a new

Engineers Surveying

Buffalo Dam Site Area

Mountain Home—U. S. engineers have started a survey on the Buffalo dam site about one mile above the mouth of Buffalo river, where it empties into White river, 12 miles south of this place.

Drillers on the North fork site have moved their drilling rigs back up the river to site No. 1 and will continue core drill operations there for a time. It is said that when both sites have been drilled a contract will be let for drilling and the site best suited will be more thoroughly tested by larger drills.

Another crew is at work locating all cemetery sites on the North Fork that will be flooded by back water from the dam. All graves will be moved to higher ground.

Flood Control Meet Planned At Harrison

Gazette 9-2-39

Special to the Gazette.

Harrison, Sept. 1.—Invitations have been sent by Congressman Clyde T. Ellis to congressional leaders and national and state officials to attend the two-day waterways round-up here September 28-29.

Congressman Ellis is co-operating with a group of Harrison citizens in sponsoring the event to encourage flood control, hydro-electric power and water transportation development in the White river basin through construction of federal multi-purpose dams.

era for this part of Arkansas when water power furnished by the dam rebuilds the entire section.

Big Maumelle Project To Be Delayed

Gazette 8-20-39

Although the Little Rock District United States Army Engineers have received authority to survey the Big Maumelle river in connection with flood control work, it will be several months before the survey can be made, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer, said yesterday. With work progressing rapidly on present flood control projects, it will be impossible to begin a survey of the Big Maumelle river until next spring, he said.

Legal authority for surveys of this type is provided in the act under which tributaries of the Arkansas river are studied for flood control potentialities. A report issued several days ago by Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley of Washington, chief of army engineers, said a review of available information on the river has been ordered to determine advisability of undertaking flood control work there.

Dr. W. B. Grayson, state health officer, said yesterday the state Health Department will co-operate with army engineers in a study of health and sanitation problems in the area. Army engineers are authorized only to survey and carry on work in connection with flood control.

Included on the program will be a float on the White river over Wildcat shoals, a fish fry on the gravel bar, a tour of the Norfolk dam site, and a mass meeting in Harrison, with speeches by flood control advocates.

Invitations have been sent by Congressman Ellis to all members of the House and Senate in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri and Mississippi; Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska; the army engineers, the secretary of war, and all state officials of Arkansas, and the seven Supreme Court judges of Arkansas.

Governor Bailey has announced he will attend.

Flood Control Group Appeals To Engineers

9-6-39 Gazette

The state Flood Control Committee decided yesterday to apply to the chief of the United States army engineers at Washington for authority for its chief engineer, Charles S. Christian, to have access to Arkansas records of the engineers in assembling flood control, conservation and recreational data on all Arkansas streams.

Rivers and large creeks on which data will be assembled include: Little Missouri, Caddo, Saline, Bayou Bartholomew, Cossatot and Little rivers in the Ouachita and Red river basins; Bayou Meto, Cadron creek, Point Remove, Mulberry and Short Mountain creek in the Arkansas river basin, and Cache and Spring rivers in the White river basin.

A study also is to be made to determine probable effectiveness of the St. Francis river levee system after completion of the Wappopello dam on the upper St. Francis river in Missouri, Commission Secretary W. C. McClure of Camden, said.

The commission hopes to present to the 1941 General Assembly a report showing annual flood losses in Arkansas.

Public Hearings Planned. At the invitation of interested citizens, the commission voted to conduct a public hearing at Danville or Mount Magazine to consider the possibility of its sponsoring channel work on Petit Jean river below the proposed Blue Mountain dam. Chancellor John E. Chambers and O. J. Ferguson of Danville were asked to arrange details of

the meeting. The work probably would be attempted as a WPA or PWA project.

The commission also will hold a public hearing at Heber Springs, Searcy or Stuttgart to revive interest in a gravity canal from the proposed Heber Springs flood control reservoir on the Little Red river to the crown of Grand Prairie, about 12 miles northwest of Stuttgart. The canal, originally planned to be 107 miles long with an average fall of one foot per mile, would supply water for rice field irrigation, Mr. McClure explained. The Heber Springs dam has been authorized by Congress, but no funds for construction have been provided. Commission Chairman R. E. Overman of Little Rock, John Morrow of Batesville and Mr. McClure were designated to fix the time and place for the hearing.

Representatives Named. Commission Layton Coffman of Harrison was named to represent the commission in arranging plans for the two-day "Waterways Round-up" at Harrison, September 28-29. Mr. Christian was authorized to be spokesman for the commission at a flood control hearing to be conducted by army engineers at Prescott Monday.

Seek Permanent Offices. Mr. Overman and Mr. Christian were instructed to seek permanent offices for the commission at the capitol or in the new state office building on the capitol grounds.

Governor Bailey was invited by the commission to give the address of welcome at a waterways meeting here September 15.

Final Flood Control Survey Of Logan Streams Begun.

9-17-39

Special to the Gazette. Paris, Sept. 16.—Nine members of United States engineers staff of the Little Rock district have begun a final survey of Six Mile creek and its tributaries and Short Mountain and Hurricane creeks for flood control purposes.

The work will require approximately two and a half months, G. R. Traylor, chief surveyor, said. He is assisted by James Holbrook, surveyor; Henry C. May, John B. Nolan and Ernest Phillips, under-engineering aides, and Ira W. Merritt, survey man, all of Little Rock.

Among the improvements contemplated are the diversion of the waters of these creeks into the Arkansas river at the extreme west end of McLean's bottoms. Six Mile creek now enters the river at the extreme east end of the bottom. A flood control dam on Short Mountain creek, just south of the city limits also has been proposed.

Fight For Waterways Organized

9-16-39 Gazette

The National Waterways Association organized by representatives from 15 states here yesterday, called on President Roosevelt to "protect" river transportation from the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The organization of flood control officials and waterways advocates was formed to oppose two bills pending in Congress which would place regulation of inland waterway transportation under control of the I. C. C.

Termining the bills "the most outlandish outrages in the history of the republic," the association prepared to take its fight to the special session of Congress which convenes September 21. Its strategy will be to postpone action on the measures until the regular session in January, permitting all waterway groups to organize their opposition.

Wade O. Martin of St. Martinsville La., chairman of the Louisiana Flood Control and Water Conservation Commission, was elected chairman of the new association. Mr. Martin also is chairman of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and an officer or director of five sectional and national waterways groups.

W. C. McClure, secretary of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, was named secretary.

States represented were Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and California.

Resolutions Oppose Waterways Regulation.

Approved unanimously was a Resolutions Committee report requesting President Roosevelt and members of Congress to oppose passage of the Wheeler and Lea bills unless and until they were amended to "insure low cost water services to the Middle West, South and Southwest."

Mr. Martin charged the railroads with "spreading propaganda" in favor of the two bills. "We must organize and fight," he said. "We should organize in every state

and in every community and get the people mad. You'd be surprised what can be done when the people get mad." The association, with less than a week in which to work before Congress convenes, will:

1. Flood congressmen with telegrams urging them to defeat the bills or postpone action until January.
2. Send a committee of friendly congressmen to call on Senator Barkley of Kentucky, majority leader in the Senate and "right-hand aide to the president," in an effort to obtain a delay on consideration of the bills until January.

The committee selected included: Senators Miller of Arkansas, Overton of Louisiana, Walsh of Massachusetts, Connally and Sheppard of Texas and Bland of Virginia and Representatives Kitchens of Arkansas, Whittington of Mississippi and Mansfield of Texas.

Lachlen Macleay of St. Louis, president of the Mississippi Valley Association, charged that: "We are being choked to death by the high cost of railroad transportation."

"Now they are attempting to wipe out the progress that has been made in waterway transportation. No shipper has asked that inland waterways be regulated. They are satisfied."

Rail Brotherhood Agent Among Bills' Opponents.

Mr. Macleay, Congressman Kitchens and Cleveland A. Newton of St. Louis, general counsel of the Mississippi Valley Association, charged the I. C. C. is "railway minded," and said waterways regulation by the commission would be harmful to Southern industry.

W. D. Jackson of Little Rock, representing the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, offered support of the brotherhood to the association's fight. His announcement brought applause from the evidently surprised conferees.

"The brotherhood is one of 21 railway employe unions to oppose the bills," Mr. Jackson said. "These are vicious pieces of legislation. If passed, they will cause 200,000 railway workers to lose their jobs through consolidations."

Organizations which will be invited to join the National Waterways Association are:

Mississippi Valley Association, Mississippi River Flood Control Association, National Rivers and Harbors Congress, Southwest Valleys Association, Ouachita Valley Association, Trinity Improvement Association, Mississippi Valley Carriers Association, Long Beach (Cal.) Harbor Commission, Stockton (Cal.) Harbor Commission, Los Angeles Harbor Commission, Los Angeles Steamship Association and National Maritime Union.

Other speakers included Miss Marian Pope Talton of Camden, H. M. Gregory, traffic and commerce counsel of the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. McClure.

Preliminary expenses of the organization will be borne by the Louisiana Flood Control and Water Conservation Commission. A treasurer and Board of Directors will be elected at a later meeting.

Hearing Held At Prescott On Flood Control

Special to the Gazette.

Prescott, Sept. 11. — Four hundred Pike, Clark, Ouachita, Hempstead and Nevada county residents attended a hearing held by the federal Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors of Washington here today. Proposed construction of a dam across Little Missouri river at the Narrows, above Murfreesboro, for flood control and power purposes, and channel clearance and alignment of the entire river and the improvement of drainage of the Terre Noir and Ozan creeks, were discussed.

Forty witnesses were examined by M. W. Greson of Prescott, member of the state Flood Control Commission.

Congressmen Favor Project. United States Senator John E. Miller, Congressman Wade Kitchens and Brig. Gen. M. C. Tyler of Vicksburg, president of the Mississippi Rivers Corporation, spoke in favor of the project. Lieut. Col. R. G. Moses, district engineer of Vicksburg, and his staff of engineers who had approved the project which subsequently was rejected by the board, presented information concerning their survey and recommendations.

Brig. Gen. T. M. Robins of Washington, chairman of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, said that their judgment in the matter would be announced soon at Washington.

This is the first time the full Board of Engineers has conducted a hearing in Arkansas and viewed a proposed project. The hearing was on an appeal granted recently from a ruling of the board rejecting the project.

All engineers and guests attended a banquet at the Loda hotel at noon.

CITY CITES COST PER GALLON IN WATER RATE SUIT

10-5-39 Gazette

Final Hearing Set October 16.

Special to the Gazette.

The city's demurrer to a suit filed by the North Little Rock Water Company, seeking to invalidate a Little Rock or-

dinance increasing the price of water delivered to North Little Rock and to enjoin the Little Rock Board of Waterworks Commissioners from placing the revised rate in effect, was withdrawn and a new one filed in Pulaski Chancery Court yesterday.

P. A. Lasley, special lawyer for the Municipal Water Department, filed the new demurrer, which he coupled with an answer to the suit, by leave of the court.

Final hearing on the suit is scheduled October 16. Chancellor Dodge has indicated at two previous hearings he would dismiss the company's suit.

Effect of Mr. Lasley's procedure yesterday will be to insure that the city's answer to the suit will be included in the transcript to the Supreme Court. The new demurrer was a copy of the one withdrawn, alleging insufficient grounds and attacking jurisdiction.

Figure: Offered To Support New Rate.

The answer offers statistics to sup-

port the revised rate of 9.18 cents per 1,000 gallons for water delivered to North Little Rock in comparison to a four-cent rate provided in a 20-year contract signed by the company and city when Little Rock bought its water system from the old Arkansas Water Company.

It contends the contract is unlawful and cannot be upheld by a court of equity. It accuses the former owner of the system of "palming off" on the city obsolete wells and equipment, at a cost to the city of more than \$700,000. It points out the new source of supply and water system is designed to supply both Little Rock and North Little Rock and declares the north side city could require Little Rock to supply it with water without a contract.

Cost Per Gallon Of Water Explained.

Justification for the revised rate, which has not been placed in effect because of a temporary injunction, is explained as follows:

In 1938, the Municipal Water Department sold 1,999,800 thousand gallons of water, of which 370,900 thousand gallons were delivered to North Little Rock. It cost the department \$46,558.36, exclusive of fixed charges, to produce, impound, transmit from the reservoir, purify and turn the water into the distribution system. That cost would be 2.33 cents per thousand gallons.

A reasonable fair value of the water properties and system is \$4,124,165.19 and the annual depreciation is not less than \$18,516.55. Although a reasonable return on the property would be six per cent, for the purpose of adjusting the rate to the North Little Rock company, the return fixed in the revised rate schedule is four per cent, or \$164,966.30. Fixed charges, consisting of depreciation and investment return, is \$188,483.15, or 9.18 cents per thousand gallons.

The total cost of water delivered to North Little Rock is 11.51 cents per thousand gallons, the answer says. The amortization of the \$700,000 in wells and equipment "palmed off" on the city and abandoned is not included in this cost.

Since purchase and operation of the water system by the city, it has been discovered that during the last several years of operation by the old Arkansas Water Company, cost to the company was 14 cents per thousand gallons of water distributed. The company had such knowledge when it sold the system and executed the contract with the city, although city officials had no knowledge of the fact, the answer says.

"Even though the court should take the view that water sold the North Little Rock Water Company is not a public utility service but a matter of private arrangement and not subject to regulation by the City Council, the contract is unlawful, unjust, unconscionable and inequitable and will not be enforced by a court of equity," the answer contends.

10-4-39 FROM THE MONEY SPENT FOR FLOOD CONTROL.

Federal flood control projects yield a greater return for the money spent on them than any other class of federal public works, in the belief of Col. Eugene Reybold, army engineer in charge of the Southwestern Division.

The cost of such disasters as the 1927 flood in the lower Mississippi valley, the New England floods of 1935 and 1936, and the Ohio river floods that devastated such cities as Pittsburgh and Louisville was on a scale comparable to the costs of war.

When settled regions, with their farms and towns and cities, their factories and railroads and highways, are subject to destructive floods, there is, in addition to the human suffering and peril created, a bill for material losses that can be footed up and over the years will represent an enormous total. It becomes a plain matter of business to decide which of two courses shall be followed—whether such losses shall go on, or shall be stopped, by flood control works whose cost will be more than offset by benefits running far into the future.

Not only have flood catastrophes impressively and tragically emphasized the necessity and value of federal stream control, but new measures of flood protection have been developed. Here in the lower Mississippi valley emergency outlets and cut-offs to reduce flood crests on the country's greatest river have been provided. A program of building up-stream reservoirs for flood control is actively under way in many parts of the country. The Wappapello dam now under construction in Missouri will give added protection to the St. Francis valley in Arkansas, where almost annual floods have caused great damage. The reservoir program on the White river will protect another area where flood losses have been frequent and heavy in the past. West of Little Rock dams and reservoirs on Arkansas river tributaries will hold back water whose uncontrolled flood flow, year after year, would threaten property all down the Arkansas valley with accumulating damage and losses, to take no account of the human injuries that floods inflict.

Reservoirs For Fishing Discounted

Gazette 11-19-39

Flood control projects should be able to stand on their own feet without leaning on the shoulder of recreation, Secretary D. N. Graves of the state Game and Fish Commission, said yesterday.

Mr. Graves alluded to a protest lodged by the Conservation Federation of Missouri with the War Department, seeking to prevent construction of 30 large flood control dams in that state.

Such dams destroy recreational advantages of clear water streams, Mr. Graves said, because the water level fluctuates so markedly. Fishing especially is affected because eggs cannot hatch under such conditions.

"Fish spawn is deposited in about 18 inches of water near the banks," the secretary said. "If the water drops very much the eggs die. Small minnows feed on daphnia, or water fleas, and other minute organisms that abound in shallow water. If this source of food stuff is eliminated by a falling water level, the minnows cannot live and multiply."

Lakes formed for flood control are beautiful when full, Mr. Graves asserted, but the water is released as soon as rivers below are emptied sufficiently to

absorb it. Often such lakes become mud flats several months each year.

Some Good Fishing Provided.

Mr. Graves denied that all artificial lakes are poor fishing grounds.

"Lakes constructed for hydro-electric development or a city water supply become natural bodies of water as soon as aquatic vegetation moves in and builds up a natural environment for fish," he said. "The level can be controlled by drainage. The fish population can be controlled by stocking. But conditions in flood control reservoirs can never be favorable for fish."

Mr. Graves said such artificial bodies as Lakes Hamilton and Catherine, near Hot Springs, are "good fishing lakes," but declared the sport is affected each fall by increased demand for hydro-electric power by cotton gins and other seasonal industries.

"When more power is needed," he said, "more impounded water is released. Therefore, the level drops. Lake Hamilton, during the two weeks preceding the last rain, was losing more water through evaporation than the Ouachita river deposited—to say nothing of the water required by the power plant.

"That's one reason the proposed third lake at Blakeley mountain will be so useful. It will help stabilize the level in the other two and make them better for development of fish."

Blakeley Dam Said Not Yet Needed

12-3-39

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Dec. 2.—Having invested more than \$1,500,000 in surveys, plans and acquiring lands needed for the reservoirs, the Arkansas Power and Light Company is ready to proceed with construction of the Blakeley Mountain power-flood control dam as soon as growth of business (load) warrants the additional investment, Harvey C. Couch, president of the company, said here today.

Mr. Couch made the statement during a press conference at Couchwood, his country estate, where newspaper men had gone to interview Charles S. McCain, New York investment banker, and Linus C. Coggan, vice president of Corn Products Refining Company, who, with their wives, are week-end guests at Couchwood.

Discussing the power company's application to the Federal Power Commission for extension from December 1, 1939, the time for completion of the dam, Mr. Couch said that the permit for Blakeley was included in the license for the company's program on the Ouachita river. Two of the company's developments on the river—Rommel and Carpenter dams—have been in service for several years.

Mr. Couch said the company had bought 95 per cent of the land needed for the Blakeley development (some 45,000 acres) and could start construction in a few days. He added that while the co-operating government agencies and engineers of the power company had not decided on the elevation to be considered as "stream bed," which would affect the height and cost of the dam, this would cause no delay.

Company For Flood Control.
Mr. Couch emphasized that he and his company are eager to co-operate in a comprehensive flood control program, realizing that consummation of such a program would enable profitable cultivation of additional thousands of acres of river bottom land.

"These now eroded lands could be replanted with pine timber and within a few years could be producing from a cord to a cord and a half an acre, which would provide the farmer with a 40-acre tract of pine and annual income about equal to the amount that a small farmer now receives from a cotton crop," Mr. Couch said. "It is our idea, ambition and determination to co-operate in the co-ordination of power development, flood control and reforestation projects so as to bestow the greatest benefits on the largest number of people."

Engineer Explains Problem.

C. S. Lynch, chief engineer of the power company, said that the Ouachita river hydro-electric stations would be used to best advantage in connection with the system's large steam generating plants. He said that the greatest benefits of the hydro-electric plant is in providing power to supply customers' demands in excess of the steam stations' capacity. This demand fluctuates greatly and is of short duration, he added. Mr. Lynch said that maximum flow of the rivers of Arkansas is 2,000 times their minimum flow, that during the dry season (June to December) little

hydro power is available, and that during the wet season there is not the demand or business there is during the dry season.

Operated as an isolated plant (not connected with steam stations) the Blakeley development would be unable to supply more than 5,000 kilowatts continuously, Mr. Lynch said, but as part of the Arkansas Power and Light Company system, the plant can be utilized to supply for brief intervals several times that quantity.

May Start in Two Years.

"This demonstration by Mr. Lynch shows that with the present demand for power it is not economically sound to go ahead immediately with construction of Blakeley dam, but with the anticipated normal growth probabilities we would begin construction in about two years—earlier in the event of an emergency or growth not now anticipated," Mr. Couch said.

Refinancing to Be Discussed.

Mr. Couch indicated that he would discuss with Mr. McCain, native and former banker of Arkansas and now a partner of Dillon, Read & Co., investment bankers of New York, the possibility of refinancing the power company's five per cent bonds on the present market.

"We have just authorized payment of all accumulated dividends on preferred stock," Mr. Couch said, "and Mr. McCain agrees that we are in excellent position to refinance. If we can save one and a half per cent this would mean something like \$500,000 a year saving. This would enable us to meet the additional tax burdens and pass on additional benefits to our customers."

"Because of our policy of co-operating with governmental and other agencies, we are hopeful that the Federal Power Commission will be willing to pass favorably on our request."

Impressed With Southwest.

During the breakfast Mr. Coggan told the newsmen that he was impressed with business conditions in the Southwest and said that work Mr. Couch had done had gone a long way to convince capital and industry in the North that Arkansas offered wonderful possibilities. He had been in Europe shortly before the war started and detailed some experiences.

Mr. McCain expressed appreciation at being able to pay a brief visit to Arkansas. He and Mr. Couch turned back the pages of their history and association and the story of the first transmission line of Mr. Couch was depicted.

Other guests who arrived tonight at Couchwood included General and Mrs. Max Tyler, Vicksburg, Miss.; Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Queeney, St. Louis; Mr. and Mrs. Sam W. Reynolds, New York; Mrs. N. C. McGowan, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hunter and Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Couch, Shreveport, La.; Mr. and Mrs. James Bruce, New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson O. Couch, Kansas City.

Blakeley Dam Delay Condoned

12-9-39

GAZETTE

Proposed delay in starting construction of Blakeley dam north of Hot Springs by the Arkansas Power and Light Company was viewed in a "sympathetic attitude" by the Arkansas Flood Control Commission at the close of a meeting at Hotel Marion yesterday.

The commission opened an executive session with some members expressing opposition to postponement which the power company will ask at a hearing before the Federal Power Commission at Washington December 18.

Four congressmen and Senator John E. Miller left the meeting early. After their departure C. Hamilton Moses, power company lawyer, explained the reason for the request for delay. The reasons were not announced but W. E. McClure of Camden, commission secretary, said Mr. Moses' explanation changed the commission's attitude to one of "sympathy."

It was learned that the Arkansas commission will support the A. P. and L. request before the Federal Power Commission for extension of time in which to erect the \$4,000,000 dam. The deadline is December 31. But it was said the state body will "insist" that a definite date for completion be fixed.

"The commission will do everything possible to get construction started as soon as possible," Mr. McClure said after the meeting.

Mr. McClure will attend the Washington meeting as a representative of the Ouachita Valley Association. He said former Mayor R. E. Overman, chairman of the state commission, and Charles S. Christian, its engineer, also will attend.

Harvey C. Couch, president of the

A. P. and L., said last week at Hot Springs that an extension of time was asked because present conditions did not justify the expenditure for the dam.

The Flood Control Commission is anxious to see the dam built because 26 feet of it would hold approximately 525,000-acre feet of water, members said. It would form the largest reservoir in the Ouachita river basin.

Eight Projects Recommended For Immediate Authorization.

The congressmen and Senator Miller attended the meeting to discuss flood control projects in their districts and to single out certain ones for recommendation to Congress for authorization.

The congressmen were W. F. Norrell of Monticello, Wade Kitchens of Magnolia, Clyde T. Ellis of Bentonville and Wilbur D. Mills of Kensett.

Projects selected for immediate support were:

1. Narrows reservoir on Little Missouri river above Murphreesboro.
2. DeGray reservoir on the Caddo river near Arkadelphia.
3. Benton reservoir on the Saline river.
4. Cleaning and straightening the Saline river channel from Benton to its mouth. Senator Miller proposed organization of a WPA project. Mr. McClure estimated cost at \$500,000.
5. Cleaning and straightening the Little Missouri river from the Narrows through Pike, Nevada, Clark and Ouachita counties to its mouth near Camden. Mr. McClure estimated cost at about \$275,000.
6. Flood control work on Point Reserve creek at Morrilton.
7. Similar work on Cadron creek at Conway.
8. Cleaning the entire channel of Bayou Bartholomew near Pine Bluff.

Proposal for Canal To Rice Belt To Be Considered.

The commission will meet early in January at Heber Springs or Searcy at the invitation of Senator Miller to study a proposed gravity canal that would extend 110 miles from an authorized dam at Heber Springs on the Little Red river to a point 12 miles northwest of Stuttgart. The canal would provide an abundance of cheap water to the Grand Prairie rice growing area. Rice farmers and others interested will be invited to attend the meeting. Mr. McClure estimated cost of the project at around \$3,000,000.

Senator Miller assured the commission that "authorized appropriations are in sight" for completion of dams at Nimrod on Fourche La Fave river, Blue Mountain on Petit Jean river and Norfolk on the North Fork river, the latter in Baxter county.

Board Named For Arkansas River Survey

12-11-39 GAZETTE

Army engineers will begin immediately what they described yesterday as the most comprehensive survey of the Arkansas river ever made.

The survey will cover about 400 miles of the stream through Oklahoma and Arkansas. It will require several months to complete. It was ordered yesterday by Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley of Washington, chief of army engineers.

Col. Eugene Reybold, Southwestern Division army engineer, said the first step will be to map the river and its tributaries to show the flood area. A general flood control plan then will be developed and reported to the War Department.

A special board was named to meet tomorrow to draw preliminary plans. Its membership includes Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, Little Rock District engineer, and Capt. Harry A. Montgomery, Tulsa District engineer.

Power Firm Asks Delay In Blakeley Dam

12-19-39

GAZETTE

Washington, Dec. 18 (AP).—The Arkansas Power and Light Company contended today that it would be "to the interest of the public" to postpone the date for completion of the Blakeley dam on the Ouachita river north of Hot Springs, Ark.

Under its present license, completion is required by December 31, 1939, but the company's petition said "the licensee could not use productively the generating capacity that

would be made available today by the completion of the Blakeley unit."

Col. C. S. Lynch of Pine Bluff, chief engineer for the Arkansas Power and Light, spent most of the day introducing charts to illustrate the present generating capacity of its system and said to attempt to prove that additional power was not now needed, but would be at a future date.

The Blakeley dam is the third of three power projects the company was authorized to construct. Two of them, the Rommel and Carpenter dams, have been completed at a cost of \$8,500,000.

The company had spent more than \$1,500,000 for engineering studies and designs, surveys and explorations of the Blakeley Dam site and for land, its lawyers said. They said that the enormity of the problem involved argued in favor of delay.

TVA Contract Cited.

They said that the company had a contract with the Tennessee Valley Authority for surplus power through a line across the Mississippi river, and "during the last 12 months applicant has paid approximately \$427,000 to TVA for power and energy."

The lawyers argued that for the present "the public interest is better to be served by these contracts than by the erection and placing in operation" of the Blakeley dam.

The company contended that as a consequence of its contract with TVA for additional power, it made rate reductions to its customers in February, 1938, totaling \$279,000 and in 1939 totaling \$317,000.

New Line Considered.

The company also disclosed it was considering for possible early construction a 100,000-volt line north from Newport through the White River Valley toward Missouri and Kansas.

"Such line would make new important capacity available for industrial development and for construction at flood control dam sites in the Upper White River Basin," the company's petition said. "Such a line would ultimately connect with the systems of Empire District Electric Company and Kansas Gas and Electric Company and would pass within a relatively short distance of the Pensacola project on the Grand river."

"Under all the disturbed economic conditions prevailing," the company said in a petition filed with the commission, "it is difficult to determine exactly what is the most economical course to pursue and the most economic capacity to install at the Blakeley project."

Other Prospective Witnesses.

President Harvey Couch of the company was a spectator. Others ready as witnesses were A. T. Larned, New York civil and hydraulic engineer and J. E. Moore, New York consulting engineer; W. C. McClure, secretary and W. M. Greeson, director, and Charles S. Christian, chief engineer, of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, and Tappin Hornor, secretary of the Arkansas Utilities Commission.

Colonel Lynch Says Blakeley Dam Not Abandoned.

Special to the Gazette. 12-19-39

Washington, Dec. 18. — Arkansas Power and Light Company does not intend to abandon the Blakeley mountain flood control and dam project on the Ouachita river near Hot Springs, but has spent more than \$1,500,000 in preparing to construct it and can start work immediately when the capacity and energy it will generate can be most economically absorbed into its system, Col. Cecil S. Lynch of Pine Bluff, chief engineer for the company, testified today.

Colonel Lynch was the only witness at the opening of a hearing before trial examiner, Frank A. Hampton, of the Federal Power Commission, on the company's application for extension of the completion date, which now is December 31, 1939. Taking direct testimony was completed and most of the cross-examination had been heard when adjournment was taken until tomorrow.

Most of Needed Land Acquired.

Questioned by C. Hamilton Moses, Little Rock lawyer for the company, Colonel Lynch said that 91 per cent of the land needed for the reservoir behind the dam had been acquired, a suitable foundation determined, some of the land in the lake to be formed had been cleared, and other preliminary work finished.

Discussing the delay in completing the project, he said that "the course that the company has pursued, through purchasing TVA power and installing additional steam generating capacity, in its Little Rock plant served the best interest of the customers, the stockholders and all governmental agencies." Through this program rate reductions totaling more than \$600,000 a year have been made possible for homes in the Arkansas Power and Light Company system, he said.

Mr. Moses Explains Request.

In his opening statement, Mr. Moses said the application does not seek an extension to an "indefinite date," but to a date when conditions are such that Blakeley can be completed with maximum economic benefits to both the power company and

the public. "Under the conditions now facing developments of this character, this means that completion of this development should be in co-ordination with the power policy of the government," he said. "The exact date for completion will have to be decided with the assistance of the Power Commission. Since it will be a matter of determining just when the economical time for absorbing the output of the dam would be."

Resolutions Put In Record.

At the opening of the hearing this morning copies of resolutions from several Chambers of Commerce in cities and towns along the Ouachita river, urging the commission to grant the extension, were offered for record.

An attorney for the commission said that a petition from a group of residents north of Hot Springs, protesting the extension, had been withdrawn by the attorney for the group. It was said also at the hearing that many editorials favoring the extension had appeared in Arkansas papers and would be filed for record.

Graphs Exhibited.

Featuring Colonel Lynch's testimony was a demonstration in which he used glass-enclosed models of graphs and sand. These were used to support his contention that maximum benefits from the power capacity of the Blakeley dam could be obtained only by putting it into the interconnected system of the Arkansas Power and Light Company, which is tied into the systems in Mississippi and Louisiana. J. T. Hornor Jr., secretary of the Arkansas Utilities Commission, formally entered his appearance at the hearing this morning, but announced he would not testify.

Mr. McClure to Testify.

W. C. McClure of Camden, secretary of the Ouachita Valley Association, said that he would seek to take the stand to testify that the power company's plan for making Blakeley both a power and flood control dam, would provide flood control for the Ouachita valley at a cost one-third cheaper than would be possible if a straight flood control dam were built. He said he would try to prove that the government is paying only \$2,000,000 for 525,000 acre feet of flood storage in the multiple purpose dam, a cost of \$4 an acre foot, whereas the average for the Mississippi valley is about \$12 an acre foot from straight flood control dams.

Mr. Greeson Attends.

M. W. Greeson of Prescott, a director of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, attended, but said he did not plan to testify. "I will say, however," he said after today's meeting, "that the flood control that would come from the multiple purpose dam would be the cheapest Uncle Sam ever could get." He said he was attending the hearing "as a representative of the farmers along the Ouachita river who don't want to see their rich lands covered with water any longer."

To Complete Hearing Today.

It is expected that all testimony on the application will be in by tomorrow night. The trial examiner then will study it and make a recommendation to the Power Commission.

Engineers Would Delay Blakeley Dam

GAZETTE

12-20-39

Washington, Dec. 19 (AP).—Two engineers told the Power Commission today that Blakeley dam on the Ouachita river north of Hot Springs, Ark., should be constructed, but that its completion should be postponed for the present.

The Arkansas Power and Light Company is asking an indefinite postponement of the completion date. Under its present license, completion is required this month.

J. E. Moore, New York consulting engineer, testified the capacity value of Blakeley dam "can be utilized only on the basis of co-operation with neighboring systems."

"If the Arkansas Power and Light Company system were to be operated as a self-contained unit, except for its TVA contracts, and were neither to import energy from nor export energy to its neighboring systems, Blakeley dam should be postponed for a generation or about that," he said. "But, co-ordinated planning looking to best overall results is the proper approach by which to determine the economic schedule for Blakeley, and I see no reason to believe that the requisite co-operation will not be achieved."

He said no new capacity would be needed in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi systems until "about the summer of 1945 and this meant 'no decision need be made as to the next step in capacity development before the fall of 1942.'"

Second Engineer Corroborates.
A. T. Larned, New York civil and

hydraulic engineer, testified that he made studies which showed the uncertainty of projected government developments in the company's territory made it impossible to estimate what effect they might have on the market.

"The studies indicate that no new capacity is required in the co-ordinated Arkansas - Louisiana - Mississippi group of systems for at least five years," said Mr. Larned.

"In the basin of the White river, at least six flood control projects have been authorized, with money already allotted by the army engineers for their investigation and construction."

He listed these projects as Norfolk, Lone Rock, Greer Ferry, Water Valley, Clear Water and Bell Foley.

"Still other dams are to be built in the Arkansas river valley," he said, "such as Nimrod and Blue Mountain."

At these, he said, "so far plans for installation of generating capacity have not proceeded to a point where determination has been made."

He said it was unnecessary to construct Blakeley dam at the present time because no new capacity was required and "when new capacity is needed, the Blakeley development can be constructed as a multiple purpose development with a saving to both the power company and the government."

Discussing benefits of constructing Blakeley as a multiple purpose dam, Mr. Larned said that for the \$2,000,000 contribution the government would make toward its cost, a total of 800,000 acre feet of flood control storage would be made available.

Flood Group Meets At Heber Springs

12-28-39

Special to the Gazette.

Heber Springs, Dec. 27.—The Arkansas Flood Control Commission met here today as the guests of the Young Business Men's Club.

Mayor M. E. Vinson gave the welcome address. Members of the commission who spoke were: R. E. Overman, Little Rock, chairman; M. A. Creason, W. O. Chastain, Little Rock, engineer for the commission, and Lamar Williamson, Monticello.

A large delegation from the rice district attended, headed by Mayor Arp of Carlisle, Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, Little Rock district engineer, reported that a survey for a location for the White river reservoir will be completed early in March and that a full report will be made at that time. He announced that a meeting will be held in Searcy to further determine the sentiment of the people in regard to the proposed dam.

Congressman Wilbur D. Mills of Kensett and Senator John E. Miller of Searcy also spoke.

Work to Begin Soon On Clearwater Dam.

12-30-39 GAZETTE

Construction of the proposed Clearwater dam project on the Black river near Piedmont, Mo., should be underway by the end of June, Capt. D. W. Griffiths of Little Rock District, the United States Army Engineers, said yesterday.

The completion of the test contract which consists of core drilling, foundation exploration, test pit digging and augur boring, is expected soon.

Plans for the construction of the dam will be submitted to the chief of engineers for approval as soon as they are completed.

The dam will cost several million dollars. Congress has appropriated \$725,000 to initiate construction.

He was unable to say when bids would be asked.

13-State Flood Control Plan Mapped

1-4-40

Preparation of work plans for flood control surveys delegated to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Southeastern states began in the area headquarters, Division of Land Economics, in the Donaghey building yesterday.

Thirteen Southeastern states were represented at the four-day meeting by 18 Bureau of Agricultural Economics experts, C. E. Henderson of Little Rock, Southeastern area leader, announced. Plans are expected to be completed by Saturday for surveys to be carried out in co-operation with the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service divisions of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Three Approved in State.
Plans for three survey projects in Arkansas have been approved. They are: Ouachita river, Arkansas and Louisiana; White river, Arkansas and Missouri; and lower Arkansas river, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Part of a fourth, Neosho Grand river, is in Arkansas.

The bureau is responsible for economic evaluations in the surveys, Mr. Henderson said. The Forest Service and SCS are responsible for the actual surveys.

Those attending the meeting included Mr. Henderson, George R. Fulton, agricultural economist, Yazoo survey, Oxford, Miss.; Joe H. Miller, associate agricultural economist, Little Rock; Glenn A. Ruggles, associate agricultural economist, Lower Arkansas survey, Fort Smith; Harry Wise, associate agricultural economist, Little Rock; J. T. Armstrong, junior agricultural economist, Little Rock; Hobart S. Cooper, associate agricultural economist, Pee Dee survey, Salisbury, N. C.; C. J. Bradley, agricultural economist, Grand (Neosho) survey, Parsons, Kan.; Jack Miller, associate agricultural economist, Concho basin, San Angelo, Tex.; Earl L. Struwe, associate agricultural economist, Little Rock; E. L. Langford, leader, Division of Farm Management and Costs, South Central area, Little Rock; Gordon V. Holcomb, assistant agricultural economist, Little Rock; George Townsend, assistant agricultural economist, Fort Smith; Karl A. Shafer, assistant agricultural economist, Division of Farm Population, Little Rock; Myron E. Andrews of Atlanta, Ga., in charge of flood control for Region 5, including South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Virginia and Tennessee; Print Hudson of Little Rock, in charge of flood control, Division of Land Economics, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi; James W. Browning, agricultural economist, Little Rock, and Brown R. Rawlings, junior agricultural economist, Little Rock.

Nimrod Dam Site Clearing To Start

1-5-40

Clearing of land at the Nimrod Dam site in Perry county on Fourche la Fave river will begin today, if the weather permits, Capt. D. W. Griffiths, chief of operations of the Little Rock District of United States Engineers, said yesterday.

Bids for material to be used in the construction of a warehouse and office building at the site will be asked Monday. Construction of the buildings will begin as soon as the material is received.

Construction of the dam will begin as soon as plans are authorized by the chief of engineers, Capt. Griffiths said. It is expected the plans will be returned here before June 30.

Men from the surrounding territory will be used for the labor on the buildings and dam.

Felsenthal Opposes Delay In Building Blakely Dam.

Special to the Gazette. I-6-40
Arkadelphia, Jan. 5.—Adolph Felsenthal of Camden, for many years a promoter of navigation and flood control on the Ouachita river, in a talk before the Rotary Club here today, opposed delay in building the Blakely mountain dam near Hot Springs.

He said he was aware of the interests of the Arkansas Power and Light Company in putting off construction at this time for the reasons its officials have given, but that the welfare of several hundred thousand people living along the valley also should be taken into consideration.

These people, he said, have waited for many years for some project that would stop costly floods and at the same time make the river more navigable. He said that it was the disposition of the people to co-operate with the power company and that he believed there should be some definite date fixed and that "our representatives in Congress should be asked to work towards the necessary measures to insure the government's participation in the project from the standpoint of flood control." He advocated the maximum height possible for the dam as a means of assuring real flood control.

Blakely Dam Project Reviewed

1-9-40

W. C. McClure of Camden, secretary of the state Flood Control Commission, in a letter to the editor of the Arkansas Gazette, expressed the following views on the proposed dam for flood control and hydro-electric development at Blakely mountain:

"Your editorial in today's (January 6) paper on the flood control and power features of the Blakely mountain dam was very good indeed. Permit me to congratulate you. Your analysis of the situation is no more pungent than was necessary to reveal the facts.

"It was never intended, nor does anyone appear to think, that the Federal Power Commission will grant an indefinite period for construction to begin and be completed under the franchise of the Arkansas Power and Light Company. That a reasonable time limit will be granted is the wish of all we have heard express themselves in the Ouachita valley. The agreement is 100 per cent strong that the overflow areas between Rammel dam and the Arkansas-Louisiana state line, approximating 500,000 acres (with not over five per cent in cultivation due to destructive floods) is dependent upon the proposed Blakely reservoir as the best possible project above Camden to reduce flood heights. It will catch the flashy floods of the mountain regions, and permit the valley floods below getting further down the valley before this flood water is released at the Blakely dam.

Reservoirs Much Needed.

"Reservoirs are much needed in the basins of Caddo and Little Missouri, to supplement Blakely mountain, while the proposed dam near Benton will work wonders for 250,000 acres of overflow lands along the Saline and reduce flood heights in the lower Ouachita. The Ouachita valley people have a considerable job on their hands, with all the help we can muster, to get Congress to authorize and provide funds for this much needed control of Caddo, Little Missouri and Saline. If the plan for the Blakely mountain dam is overthrown, our problem would accordingly be much greater, and relief in sight be all the more indefinite.

Low Cost Project.

"The best authorities have agreed that the 26-foot extension for flood control will hold the greatest flood on record, with a margin of 20 to 25 per cent to spare. The capacity of the upper storage is 525,000 acre feet. With the federal government contributing \$2,000,000 of the cost for this flood control portion, the result is a cost to the government per acre foot of water less than \$4 which is decidedly less than 1-3 the cost per unit of acre feet of the two reservoirs authorized in the Arkansas basin, and five authorized in the White river basin in Arkansas, by the Flood Control Act of 1938. This appears remarkably true even though we all take delight that these seven projects have been authorized, and the protection they will afford, with other by-products and incidental advantages will prove to be decidedly cheaper than the flood losses will amount to if these projects are not constructed.

Desirable Partnership.

"The Blakely project, therefore, is more than a dam and a reservoir. It is the first partnership of its kind between the government and private enterprise. The state Flood Control Commission, nor the Ouachita Valley Association, nor the Southwest Valleys Association had anything to do with getting this pledge of \$2,000,000 for the flood control extension. It was done by Harvey C. Couch almost single-handed. He sold the idea to the proper authorities in Washington, and Congress responded by providing the money. The country has gone through a period of partnership between the government and politics. It is interesting to watch this much-needed experiment between government and business. The extent of potentialities is far reaching.

"There are very few reservoir sites in America the equal of Blakely mountain. Foundations and other conditions would support a structure there capable of holding much more water than is necessary for flood control, or water available for more power, recreational and conservation purposes. With it all, the flood control feature, in its cost to the government being so remarkably low, the proposition is outstandingly in a class to itself.

Co-operation Favored.

"With no substitute to offer for the partnership plan between the power company and the government; with no likelihood or possibility in sight of getting the government to build this dam as early as it will in all probability be constructed by the Arkansas Power and Light Company, the gen-

eral impression prevails in this section that our best chance is to go along with the power company, and in a spirit of co-operation no less than with a well-sustained demand that construction shall not be unreasonably delayed.

"The people of this vicinity appear to agree with the wisdom of the position taken in this matter by both the Flood Control Commission of Arkansas and the Ouachita Valley Association."

'People's Side' Of Dam Issue Presented

1-14-40

Voicing opposition to the Arkansas Power and Light Company's proposal that its permit for construction of Blakely Dam on the Ouachita river near Hot Springs be extended indefinitely, Adolph Felsenthal of Camden said yesterday he favors construction of the dam by the federal government if the company fails to begin the project soon.

Presenting what he described as "the people's side of the Blakely Dam issue," Mr. Felsenthal, former president of the Arkansas Assessors Association, said the utility company first proposed a "partnership" with the federal government for construction of the power-flood control dam at Blakely mountain and that it "now seeks to delay and perhaps withdraw from its own co-operation."

Says People Would Pay Dearly for Delay.

"It must not be overlooked that its appeal is now for an indefinite postponement. Construction will thus be halted and can go forward only if and when it suits the company's financial purposes. But, in the meantime, what about the interests of the people throughout the entire Ouachita valley in their struggle for protection from floods and for further beneficial extension of existing navigation to points of still more service? It is for them alone that the government builds.

"The corporation has only its own interests in mind and in this instance it needs the aid and the protection of the government. But, neither the government nor the people is dependent upon the financial or political wishes of this or any corporation.

"It was the corporation that offered the partnership to our government. It was decidedly to the advantage of the corporation. There is little element of unselfish public service in their side of the plan they offered, even though there was apparently a lowering of structural cost for the government thereby. But, will the people of Arkansas not, perhaps, pay dearly for this seeming saving in first-cost building?

Probable Benefits Of Dam Reviewed.

"The Blakely Mountain Dam, huge in power-production possibility, is the key to the possible permanent monopoly of the Arkansas Power and Light Company, throughout the state of Arkansas, which it already holds with an almost uncontrolled dominating power, influentially, politically and financially, and without danger of competition in almost every county in the state. The competition may yet be needed in the future years. It might and could come if the permit already held by the corporation for the past 15 years was not renewed and if the enormous water power of the great Blakely mountain reservoir was owned and controlled by the government and leased to the best advantage of the consuming public, instead of the uncontrolled ownership of this corporation.

"The weak-kneed argument that we cannot get this dam without the influence and help of the Arkansas Light and Power Company or even its president, Harvey C. Couch, is an evidence of un-American cowardice that is not complimentary to the citizens of Arkansas and to their senators and congressmen.

"If the dam is needed to prevent floods and extend navigation (and the government has already established that fact and appropriated millions) it ought to be built and it will be built. Only the permit given the corporation and held unused during their past 15 years of ownership has delayed the movement for entire construction by the government. But, we need not fear that the corporation will further delay or give up its co-operative plan of partnership with the government. It has far greater advantages for itself than it would have had if it had carried out an original plan of completed ownership. Complete protection from evaporation permanent sources of full water pools in every reservoir, possible enormous savings in annual taxes by this par-

ticipation in government ownership, and, above all, continuing 50 years complete monopoly of that ever-increasing valuable electrical power privilege throughout Arkansas will not lightly or unresistingly be given up.

Pays Tribute To Utility's President.

"There is not a man in Arkansas whose record is more creditable and encouraging to American citizenship than Harvey C. Couch. His life and his labors have been most useful and helpful to the people of this state. He is most fortunate that in his striving to build up Arkansas, he helps himself and the great industrial, electrical and railroad corporations he also serves. For not an industry that turns its wheels, from the smallest cotton gin to the greatest paper-making plant, not a light that shines in the rural home, the smallest hamlet, or the huge stores of our great cities—whether of today or tomorrow, but pays its monthly money-tribute into the towering corporations that he heads in this state and elsewhere. They are, I hope, not thus placing him in their forefront to his hurt. But, without his personal public services and his wide influence, there would be a closer and more careful examination and perhaps still more public resistance toward this present appeal by his corporation for an indefinite delay.

"I realize how difficult the task may be to protest successfully against the efforts of the corporation, but, I insist that whatever favorable consideration comes, that certain protective restrictions may be added. It should be provided that the government should retain control over the rates of the corporation. The people should never be left to the mercy of any individual or company supplying the public. There should be a provision to insure protection for the state and its political sub-divisions in preventing a possible evasion of taxes on grounds of participation with the government. This plainly has been successfully utilized by the banks throughout the country and perhaps by others. There are millions of dollars of taxable values involved and no harm done against any honest interest, public or private, in taking this protective step. Most important to the people of the Ouachita valley, provisions must be made to secure the construction of the Blakely Mountain Dam to its highest possible practicable height. This alone would give ample prevention of all floods and would add a new principality of wealth and opportunity throughout the future. This great structure, when built, will endure throughout the ages. Even in tourist attraction alone its dividends to the people would grow increasingly in the years.

Urges Citizens To Take Active Interest.

In thus making this plea for the people's side of the Blakely Mountain question, may I say in all good faith that I am impelled by an unwavering belief, growing constantly throughout almost 50 years of labor for its attainment, in the invaluable benefits that the Ouachita river can give to Arkansas. Twenty-five years ago I began the movement to have the government build the Blakely Mountain Dam, owned, controlled and operated by and for the people. It is entirely possible that their interests and those of the Arkansas Power and Light Company can be joined together in a mutually protective arrangement. I stand ready to urge such co-operation, but, I insist and emphasize that in such a time "the sympathy" of all those taking part in such a movement is more clearly needed by the unorganized people, without knowledge and means of common protection and defense, than need be offered to a great corporation amply able and powerful to take care of its own affairs.

"The people of Arkansas may not gratefully remember those who fail her now in this state-wide issue. Political peril may come to those who desert her cause. In this spirit of citizenship I speak for confidence in the good faith, intelligence and patriotic devotion to their duty of our representation in Washington.

"I believe they will study the question and do their best to protect the common interest of the people and the corporation all of whom they have sworn to serve. With this thought in mind I urge that in this matter every citizen can help toward the rightful solution. He need only to wire his senator and congressmen asking them to see to it that the rights and interests of the people of Arkansas are fully protected and this without injustice of any kind to any and all. The right kind of measure honestly and carefully drawn will protect both the people and the utility corporations in this and all other future participating public measures."

Explorations Completed For Big Dam

1-24-40

By CLOVIS COPELAND.

(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)
Piedmont, Mo., Jan. 23.—Final explorations on the \$12,000,000 Clearwater dam, the first and largest of six dams planned to protect the White river country from floods, were completed by the Board of Consultants here today. Construction work may be started in five months.

Although the location was said to be far from favorable, the consultants said they were pleasantly surprised at the condition found in the lower half of the three 150-foot test pits. With information gleaned from examinations of the pits today, the consultants will decide on methods of construction. It was indicated they would make no further examinations before reaching a decision.

The Board of Consultants is composed of:

Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, engineer for the Little Rock district, United States engineers.
Capt. T. F. Kern, assistant to Colonel Scott.

W. H. McAlpine, chief engineer for the War Department.

Joel D. Justin of Philadelphia, consulting engineer.

James P. Growden of Pittsburgh, consulting engineer.

G. R. Schneider of Little Rock, head of the Design Division of the Little Rock district.

R. N. Strohl, head of the Foundation and Exploration Division.

L. B. Young of the Projects Studies Section.

The Clearwater dam will be the largest dam of its kind in the group to furnish flood control for Arkansas. It will be more than 4,000 feet long at the top, about 190 feet above the bed of Black river, more than a quarter mile thick at the base and 30 feet across the top.

Board Meets Here Today.

The Board of Consultants will decide during conferences, starting at 9 a. m. tomorrow in Little Rock, whether the dam will be of rolled earth or of hydraulic construction. It will be similar in construction to the Alum Fork dam of the Little Rock Municipal Waterworks, it was indicated. There will be a large concrete spillway, the size to be determined during the conferences.

Building of the dam will mean construction of a near-mountain across a running and sometimes uncontrollable stream, engineers said. It will be necessary to construct a tunnel through the North mountain to divert the flow of stream while the dam is being constructed. The tunnel will cost approximately \$2,000,000 and will be the first unit constructed. The conservation pool will cover an area that never will fall below 1,630 acres. At flood stage it will cover 10,350 acres. The drainage area is estimated at 885 square miles. Storage capacity is adequate to take care of 25 per cent more water than would be necessary to regulate a flood of the same proportions as the 1927 flood at Poplar Bluff. It would enable the government engineers to control the flow of Black river to 25,000,000 second feet at the Arkansas-Missouri line. This would mean only bankfull conditions for the stream engineers said. This would aid conditions in the White and lower Mississippi rivers considerably.

With the Poplar Bluff-to-Knobel level completed from Knobel to the Missouri line, there would be little danger of excessive floods in the Black river country when the dam is completed.

To Be Four-Year Job.

Construction is expected to require four years. Invitations for bids are expected to be prepared in 30 days.

The general policy of the dam and flood control reservoirs was included in the 1936 flood control bill. Clearwater was one of the six approved for the White river basin in the 1938 bill. In May, 1939, Congress appropriated \$725,000 for plans and specifications for the proposed dam and reservoir. The site finally selected is the last of four explored by the engineers. In the three previous explorations poor rock conditions caused the sites to be abandoned.

Hydro-electric possibilities of the dam cannot be estimated until the dam is completed and the leakage tested. Engineers explained the rock structure indicates that considerable water would be forced under the dam or around through the mountains on either side. However, deep holes will be drilled at least 60 feet under the base of dam and concrete will be forced into the rock bed in an effort to form a concrete curtain to prevent leakage.

55 Miles North of State Line.
The Clearwater dam site is in Wayne county, Missouri, about four miles southwest of Piedmont, and 40 miles northwest of Poplar Bluff, Mo. The dam will be approximately 55 miles north of the Arkansas-Missouri state line.

Recreation facilities in this vicinity will be increased considerably, engineers said.

Cost Comparatively Small.

Cost of construction will be comparatively small. The land is of little value for agriculture because of the late spring overflows. Purchase price of the land will be a minor consideration. Engineers have experienced little difficulty in obtaining options.

The hard red clay, and abundant supply of sand and gravel, will enable the engineers to obtain material for the dam close by.

Under preliminary plans excavation for the foundation will be less than 10 feet. Foundation of the dam will not be solid rock, but the underground soil structure is such that it will not leak.

Most of the leakage is expected to come from a depth of from 80 to 60 feet. It would be impractical to excavate an area this large, the engineers pointed out.

Foundation explorations were made by each consultant going down in each of the 36-inch holes, ranging in depth from 60 to 160 feet. They were lowered in small elevators, and made explorations every few feet.

This was necessary to determine condition of the rock in its native state. It was found that many core drillings had changed in many ways, or had been injured seriously after being brought to the surface. This made it impossible to secure a correct idea of foundation conditions.

A large pit was made on the top of the west abutment. The shaft was lowered to below the river level. It was said that the foundation structure was solid, but the conditions a few feet under the top surface were "discouraging."

The engineers said that there would be little danger in this condition, unless the lake was kept filled to capacity for several months. This was considered highly improbable.

Water Valley Dam Site Studied.

The engineers also made a preliminary study of the sub-surface conditions at the proposed site of the Water Valley dam, seven miles west of Pocahontas, Ark., on Eleven Point river, a tributary of the Black.

The Water Valley dam will not be as large or expensive, but will impound more water, engineers said. Final decision on the site is expected within a month. Preliminary explorations have been completed, and test shafts will be drilled soon.

Engineers Ask Bids On Nimrod Dam

1-25-40 Gazette

Bids for the construction of Nimrod dam on the Fourche Le Fave river were asked by the Little Rock District, United States Engineers, yesterday. The bids will be received February 27.

The proposed project will be 986 feet long and will rise 97 feet above the river bed. The storage pool will be about 60 feet deep at the dam, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer of the district, said. The dam will rise about 40 feet above the water level at normal stage.

Bids for 117,000 barrels of cement to be used in the construction were advertised last week. The government will furnish the cement.

Arrangements for a rock quarry have been made at the dam site, he said. There will be no charge to the contractor for use of stone from the quarry, but he will not be required to obtain it there.

Plans for state Highway 7 to pass over the dam have been completed by the United States Bureau of Public Roads, Captain Washbourne said. Construction of the approach from the south will begin as soon as the land is cleared and surveying is completed.

Other Projects Planned.

This is the first of the eight proposed flood control projects in the Little Rock district. Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer, expects to have three of the projects under construction by June 30, he said.

Seven of the proposed dams are in Arkansas and the other in Missouri.

Captain Washbourne announced that removal of trash and underbrush has been completed in Black river and will begin in White river as soon as the ice melts. Dredging of White river from Batesville to Newport has begun, he said.

Core drilling at the proposed

Greer's Ferry dam near Heber Springs on the Little Red river is progressing. Drillers have moved to a site five miles south of the town, where a favorable spot has been located, he said.

Board Continues Work.

The Design Board of Engineers, which met at the Little Rock office yesterday, failed to complete designs for the Water Valley dam on the Black river in Missouri and will continue the study today, Captain Washbourne said. After the board has completed plans for the dam it will discuss the proposed Clearwater dam on White river.

The board is composed of: Colonel Scott, Capt. T. F. Kern, assistant to Colonel Scott; W. H. McAlpine, chief engineer of the War Department; Joel D. Justin of Philadelphia, Pa., consulting engineer; James P. Growden of Pittsburgh, Pa., consulting engineer; G. R. Schneider, Little Rock District Design Division; R. N. Strohn, head of the Foundation and Exploration Division, and L. B. Young of the Project Studies Section.

Design For Clearwater Dam Outlined

1-26-40 Gazette

The Design Board of the United States Engineers recommended an earth embankment with a concrete spillway section in the right abutment for the proposed Clearwater dam near Piedmont, Mo., at the final session of a two-day meeting at the Little Rock District office yesterday. The project will cost about \$12,000,000, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer of the Little Rock District, said. The recommendation must be reviewed by the Little Rock office and approved by the chief of engineers before bids can be asked.

The board decided upon this type of dam after studying the survey charts and inspecting the site, Captain Washbourne said. A solid limestone base is six feet below the bed of the river, and that plan of construction is considered most favorable.

The proposed Water Valley and Blue Mountain dams were discussed by the board, but no recommendations were made.

Members attending were: Lieut. Col. Stanley E. Scott, Little Rock District engineer; Capt. T. F. Kern, assistant to Colonel Scott; W. H. McAlpine, chief engineer of the War Department; Joel D. Justin of Philadelphia, Pa., consulting engineer; James P. Growden of Pittsburgh, Pa., consulting engineer; G. R. Schneider, Little Rock District Design Division; R. N. Strohn, head of the Foundation and Exploration Division, and L. B. Young of the Project Studies Section.

REPORT URGES U.S. TAKE OVER BLAKELY DAM

Federal Lawyers In Recommendation.

Feb. 4-40

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP).—The Federal Power Commission received from its attorney today a proposal that the government or some designated agency take over and operate the proposed 42,000-horsepower Blakely hydroelectric power project on the Ouachita river in Arkansas.

Lawyers for the F. P. C. said this would require the commission to revoke the Arkansas Power and Light Company's license to develop the project.

The company was to have completed the dam December 31, 1939, but has asked the commission for an indefinite postponement of completion date.

The Arkansas Power and Light Company asked the F. P. C. to hold that no additional power was needed in the immediate future by the area it serves.

Government attorneys said construction by the United States or some other public agency of a multiple purpose reservoir at the Blake-

ly site, near Hot Springs, "offers the most orderly solution to the problem raised by the continued delays of the Arkansas Power and Light particularly in view of its failure now to propose a definite schedule for and completion of the Blakely development."

Commission Not Bound By Lawyers' Recommendation.

Officials of the commission said the commission could discard the recommendation and grant the time extension asked by the company in full or in modified form, extend the time for completion until a specified date, deny the company's application, or revoke the license.

The commission said its lawyers cited considerable evidence which, they said, would justify the commission in ordering immediate construction.

Blakely is the unconstructed unit of three developments on the Ouachita river. Rempel and Carpenter developments are in operation.

Blakely was to have been started December 31, 1936, and completed December 31, 1939.

Public Operation Favored By Flood Control Chairman.

R. E. Overman, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission and former mayor of Little Rock, approving the Federal Power Commission counsel's recommendation that a government agency take over and operate the proposed Blakely Dam power development, said:

"This may be the first move in establishing a 'little TVA' in Arkansas."

Or, Mr. Overman said, the suggestion may result in the development of cheap power by the government, which would sell it to private companies at a low price with the provision that re-sale rates would be held down to a "ceiling."

"It has become recognized that private companies no longer can finance such huge projects alone," he said. "It takes years to build them and years to load them."

"If the government makes the power and places a 'ceiling' on rates to be charged by the utility to which it sells energy, perhaps Arkansas rates would be placed on a parity with states across the river."

Mr. Overman said he referred to states in which the Tennessee Valley Authority sells electricity. He said the government's decision to build Norfolk and Nimrod dams in Arkansas "probably influenced the Arkansas Power and Light Company" in seeking a delay in construction of Blakely Dam.

He said the delay would be continued "as long as possible" and that power rates in the state would "remain higher than those in TVA states as long as the TVA sells electricity to private companies without establishing a 'ceiling' for re-sale rates."

"I know the Arkansas Power and Light Company is selling power to TVA at the present because of low water levels in Tennessee and Alabama," Mr. Overman said. "But that it only temporary."

Utilities Chairman Declines Comment.

Chairman Thomas Fitzhugh of the state Utilities Commission declined to comment.

"It is possible the commission will be asked to pass on an application for the delay after the Federal Power Commission hearing," he said.

Lawyer Says Company Anxious to Build Dam.

C. Hamilton Moses, A. P. and L. lawyer, denied the company asked for an indefinite extension of time in which to complete the dam.

"The company is anxious to complete the development," Mr. Moses said. "We did not seek an indefinite extension. We merely requested that the permit be held in abeyance until the demand for power is present and the dam is economically feasible."

"We hope the government and company can work co-operatively. Certainly the two could build the dam quicker and give the state power and flood control more rapidly than either could do it alone."

Mr. Moses said, in his opinion, the FPC counsel's recommendation was made as "an alternative" to the power company's proposal.

Camden River Leaders Favor New Federal Proposal.

Special to the Gazette. Camden, Feb. 3.—Operation of the 42,000 horsepower Blakely dam hydroelectric power development on the Ouachita river by the federal government, as recommended by attorneys for the Federal Power Commission in Washington today, has been

advocated by Adolph Felsenthal of Camden, former tax assessor and authority on river development. Mr. Felsenthal said this afternoon that "This is just what I wanted." He said he had filed a brief 10 days ago with the Federal Power Commission, urging that the dam be constructed and that control of the power "be vested in the people."

Mr. Felsenthal opposed any extension of the time for the Arkansas Power and Light Company in building the dam. He first suggested such a dam several years ago. He said it would provide flood control and insure additional power resources. He has written many letters to congressmen and senators in Arkansas regarding the project. However, he believes that even the government will not start work any time soon.

Welcomes Partnership Idea.

W. C. McClure, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce here, and also secretary of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, has advocated the dam for its flood control advantages as well as for the power development. He also opposed indefinite delay in starting work. He and W. F. Bradford of the Ouachita Valley Association, filed briefs with the Federal Power Commission. Thousands of acres of lowlands in the Ouachita river valley are flooded annually.

Mr. McClure said this afternoon that the proposed partnership project idea for the dam was welcomed.

"The flood control feature is paramount," he said. "The \$2,000,000 to be paid by the government for a 26-foot dam on top of the dam would impound 525,000 acre feet of water at a cost less than \$4 per acre foot, the cheapest flood water storage in America. The government should build all dams, while private enterprise might use the water for power and distribute the electricity. The government might also well set a ceiling as to the cost of the power to consumers," he said.

"Land owners along the Ouachita sorely need the flood control feature and want the dam built by the first agency that will build it. When the government can be induced to build the dam remains a question. I believe that the government will be longer getting construction under way than would the power company. Final judgment can only be expressed after decision by the commission. But meanwhile it looks bad for the Ouachita valley, since \$53,000,000, the estimated cost of the seven reservoirs in the Arkansas and White valleys was authorized by the Flood Control act of 1938, and they are not under construction yet, and we are having a tough time getting enough money appropriated to build two of them—Nimrod and Norfolk."

"A suggestion * * * that Arkansas establish a 'Little TVA' merits the consideration of every citizen in the state."

Quoting a Washington newspaperman, Mr. Bailey said:

"The Federal Power Commission found the highest average electric bills distributed among six states, including Arkansas. For residential service, monthly bills in Arkansas as of January 1, 1939, averaged: \$2.03 for the first 25 kilowatt hours, compared to a national average of \$1.53; \$5.09 for 100 kilowatt hours, compared to the national average of \$4.22; \$8.77 for 250 kilowatt hours, compared to the national average of \$7.60.

"For these classifications, Arkansas ranked forty-third, forty-first and thirty-eighth respectively among the states."

'LITTLE TVA' IN STATE FAVORED BY BOB BAILEY

2-8-40

Immediate Action Advocated.

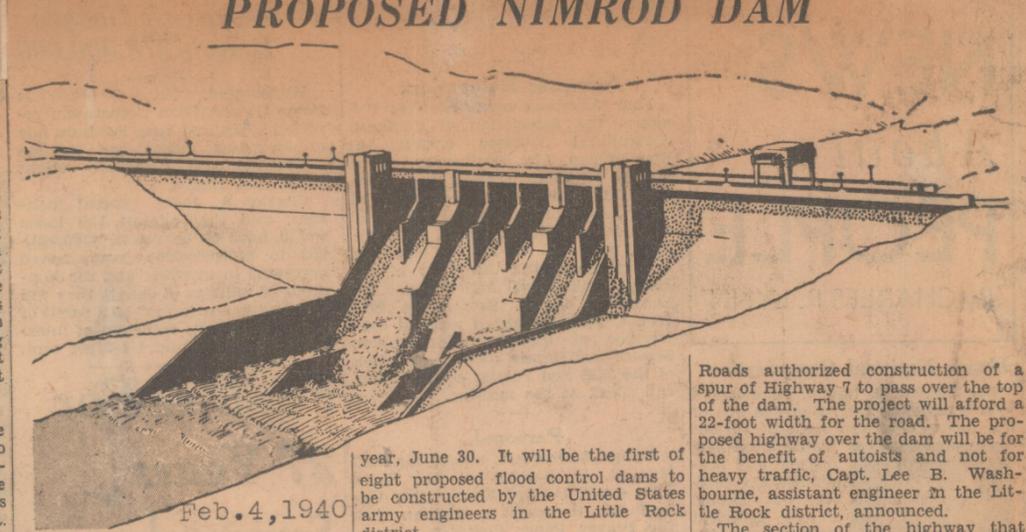
Establishment of an Arkansas Rivers Authority, or "Little TVA," with which to force electric rates to a "fair level" in the state was advocated in a statement issued by Lieut. Governor Bob Bailey yesterday.

The lieutenant governor, serving as state executive in the absence from the state of Gov. Carl E. Bailey, said he will ask the Arkansas congressional delegation to apply for federal assistance.

Would Get Movement Started Immediately.

"In view of the report of counsel for the Federal Power Commission last Saturday, in which he recommended that a federal agency take over from the Arkansas Power and Light Company and develop Blakely Dam on the Ouachita river, it looks like we could expect to get the movement started during this session of Congress," he said.

Frequently comparing rates of private utilities with those of the Tennessee Valley Authority in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, the acting governor contended that an ARA could build dams for flood control and power purposes, and sell power to private utilities, but that there "should be a ceiling to resale rates that would allow the utilities to earn only reasonable compensation for services."



Above is an engineer's drawing of the proposed Nimrod dam on Fourche la Pave river in Perry county about 50 miles from Little Rock. It is expected the dam will be under construction before the end of the fiscal

year, June 30. It will be the first of eight proposed flood control dams to be constructed by the United States army engineers in the Little Rock district.

The dam will be 986 feet long and 92 feet wide at the base. It will rise 95 feet above the river bed and the spillway section will be 70 feet above the valley floor.

The United States Bureau of Public Works is studying the project. A study of comparative costs of the generation of electricity by TVA and private companies shows no appreciable differences. TVA average cost of generation of electricity is six mills per kilowatt hour; Alabama Power Company, a privately owned authority, averages 5.8 mills per kilowatt hour.

The real difference in cost to the consumer arises in distribution within corporate limits of the city.

In view of our present and future needs, our natural resources must be made to serve the citizens of the state at the lowest possible cost to consumers whether it be distributed by federal or private authority.

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Roads authorized construction of a spur of Highway 7 to pass over the top of the dam. The project will afford a 22-foot width for the road. The proposed highway over the dam will be for the benefit of autoists and not for heavy traffic, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, assistant engineer in the Little Rock district, announced.

The section of the highway that approaches the dam from the south has been under construction for three weeks. A detour of about three-quarters of a mile will be necessary to drive over the dam. The dam will be completed in two years.

Since the shipment of cotton by barge became possible. A total of 100,000 bales moved through the Camden and Calion ports during the past season.

If the larger barges could be used on the Ouachita, he said, similar reductions in freight rates would be made on other products.

Mr. Felsenthal said plans for the dam he advocates have been ready for 15 years. An organization has been set up to press the project and that all that is needed is an aroused public to bring pressure on Congress to approve the appropriation.

He says it would require years to make the Arkansas and Red rivers navigable while the nine-foot channel on the Ouachita could be ready in three years if the Blakely dam were built immediately.

60 Working Night, Day At Dam Site

2-29-40

Special to the Gazette. Mountain Home, Feb. 28.—Sixty men are being employed by the United States engineers in drilling on Dam Site No. 4 on the Northfork river. Three shifts are working on each machine, and the work never stops, night or day. Many of the men have their families with them, and housing facilities of the town nearly are exhausted.

This is the fourth site to be drilled on the Northfork river. Two others are favorable for dam construction, but a dam can be built more cheaply at the site where engineers are working now than at any of the others, it was said. Preliminary drilling on the site will be completed early in March.

The road to the dam site is being improved and a more permanent road will be constructed as soon as the final location of the site is designated. During the last week several heavy steel culverts have been installed on the old road.

The dam site on which the present drilling is being done is about four and a half miles above the junction of the Northfork and White rivers, and three miles northeast of the town of Norfolk by road.

Railroad Spur Planned. A survey has been completed for a spur from the White River Division of the Missouri Pacific to the dam site. This spur will start from the main track just above the town of Northfork and follow the river to the site.

The Northfork dam will be one of the largest in the South. It will be 220 feet high, with a length at top elevation of 2,300 feet. The spillway, which would be located in the main channel will be 600 feet wide. The concrete in the structure will amount to 1,340,000 square yards. Capacity for flood control above the power pool will be 743,000 acre feet.

The installed hydro-electric capacity, two units of 24,000 kilowatts, will produce 48,000 kilowatts. Prime energy output per year will be 90,500,000 kilowatts. Total energy output per year will be 144,900,000 kilowatts.

A nine-foot channel would put the Ouachita on par with the Mississippi, he said, and barges could be pushed up to Camden from the Mississippi without the reloading now necessary.

He said freight rates on cotton have been reduced by the railroads from

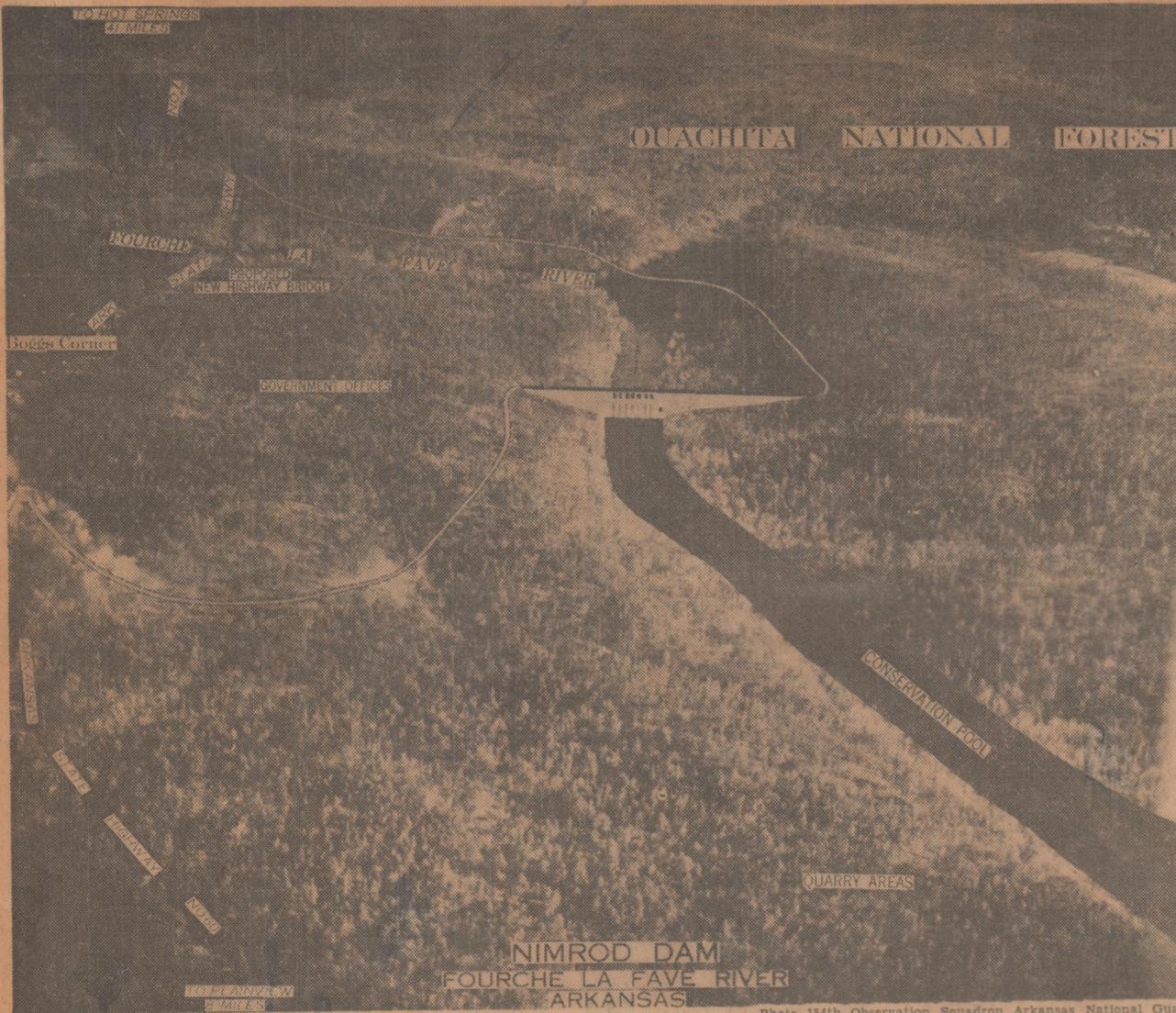


Photo 154th Observation Squadron Arkansas National Guard.

The above drawing made on an actual aerial photograph of the site shows how Nimrod dam in Perry county on the Fourche la Pave river will look upon completion. A proposed spur of state Highway 7 is shown entering at the left center and passing over the dam. Boggs Corner, at the extreme left is where Highway 7 and Highway 60 cross. The quarry area, shown at the lower right has been bought by the government for use of the contractor, who will be determined

in the next two weeks. Bids for the contract were received by the Little Rock District U. S. Army Engineers Tuesday. The apparent low bid was a joint bid of the Russ Mitchell Construction Co., Inc., of Austin, Tex., and the Brown & Root Construction Co., Inc., of Houston, Tex., for \$1,100,163.10. The construction of the dam should be under way by March 15, Capt. W. B. Washbourne, executive officer of the district, said.

The second low bid was submitted by the United Construction Corpora-

tion of Winona, Minn., at \$1,147,887.84 and the third low was by the W. E. Kier Construction Company, San Diego, Cal., at \$1,173,163.10. One of Eight Units. The Nimrod reservoir is one of eight proposed units in a comprehensive flood control reservoir system on tributaries of the Arkansas river. Flood control is the primary purpose, but the initial construction will include provisions for conversion at a future date to a dual purpose structure for electric power generation, he said. The dam will be 986 feet in length

along the axis, with a maximum height of 97 feet above the natural stream bed. An overflow spillway will be provided at an elevation of 373 feet above sea level and about 70 feet above the rock surface of the valley floor. The permanent reservoir pool formed by the dam will store 30,000 acre feet of water, having a water surface of 3,600 acres, he said. W. W. Ralphe, associate engineer, has been designated as resident engineer for the project by Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer, Capt. Washbourne said.

Memphis, Tenn.	\$ 1,000,000
Canton reservoir, Arkansas river basin, Oklahoma	2,000,000
Denison reservoir, Texas and Oklahoma	2,000,000
Great Salt Plains reservoir, Oklahoma	50,000
Hulah reservoir, Oklahoma	1,800,000
Blue Mountain reservoir, Arkansas river basin, Arkansas	600,000
Norfolk reservoir, White river basin, Arkansas	500,000
Preliminary surveys and examinations, War Department	500,000
Total	\$25,000,000,000
Additional tentative allocations proposed by the engineers if Congress should appropriate \$25,000,000 more than the \$24,300,000, approved by the House included:	
Ouachita river and Black river, Arkansas and Louisiana	\$36,000
Maintenance, operation and care of existing waterways improvements	\$42,421,510
(the following list, prepared for the committee by engineers, does not reflect these reductions made by the committee and approved by the House: Prevention of deposits, New York harbor, \$15,000, examinations, surveys and contingencies, \$43,940; operating and care of canals, etc., \$1,351,540.)	
Project	
Red river, below Fulton, Ark.	\$ 42,500
Examinations, surveys and contingencies, Vicksburg, District Arkansas river, Arkansas and Oklahoma (below Pine Bluff)	20,000
White river, Arkansas (below Peach Orchard Bluff)	22,000
St. Francis and L'Anguille rivers and Blackfish bayou, Arkansas	100,000
Examinations, surveys and contingencies, Memphis District	11,000
White river, Arkansas (above Peach Orchard Bluff)	25,000
Black river, Arkansas and Missouri	27,000
Upper White river, Arkansas	15,000
Examinations, surveys and contingencies, Little Rock District	8,000
Printing for River and Harbor Board, and printing of authorized surveys	110,000
Salaries, office, chief of engineers allotment roll	110,000
River and Harbor Board expenses	228,960
Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses	630,000
Transfer to Geological Survey (stream gauging)	3,000
	200,000
Total	\$34,480,450

Friday afternoon at which the status of the Blakely dam franchise of the Arkansas Power and Light Company will be discussed. Engineer Christian will appear before the Rivers and Harbors Congress this week to seek the endorsement of that body for an irrigation canal from Heber Springs to the rice fields in the neighborhood of Stuttgart.

Asks Approval of Plans For Red River Basin.

Endorsement of a plan for comprehensive improvement of the Red river basin in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas was asked of the Projects Committee of the Rivers and Harbors Congress by Fred Voorhies, secretary of the Louisiana Flood Control and Water Conservation Commission. Voorhies told the committee a program of flood control, navigation, pollution control and irrigation in the basin, utilizing projects already authorized or contemplated, would cost eventually about \$280,000,000.

The Red river valley, he said, was the largest river system in the country for which no unified plan had been adopted. Annual charges he estimated at \$12,000,000, including \$800,000 for maintenance. He stressed the importance of providing an adequate water supply for irrigation of extensive rice lands in Louisiana, and said proposed developments on the Red, Ouachita and Black rivers also would enhance flood protection for New Orleans by diverting water from the Mississippi during flood seasons, and provide navigable channels from Camden, Ark., to the Gulf of Mexico west of the Atchafalaya floodway through Bayous Teche and Vermilion.

FLOOD CONTROL PLANS IN STATE GET APPROVAL

3-12-40

McClure Optimistic Over Outlook.

Washington, March 12 (AP). — An optimistic picture for flood control in Arkansas was painted tonight by a delegation from that state after conferences with Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of army engineers, and heads of engineering divisions.

"While we don't see much chance of Congress raising the general flood control appropriation above the \$70,000,000 recommended by the Bureau of the Budget, we are assured our share of this fund," W. C. McClure, Camden, secretary of the state Flood Control Commission, said. R. E. Overman of Little Rock, commission chairman; John P. Morrow, Batesville; Lamar Williamson, Monticello; T. L. Geren, Fort Smith, and C. S. Christian, Little Rock, engineer for the commission, participated in the conferences.

Out of the \$70,000,000, McClure said, \$1,500,000 would be allotted to the Nimrod reservoir, \$2,200,000 to the Norfolk and \$2,400,000 to the Clearwater reservoir, all a part of the White river system, the Clearwater dam being in Missouri. McClure said there were hopes the Greer's Ferry dam on the Little Red river and Wister dam on the Poteau river near the Arkansas-Oklahoma line, would get underway this year, with hopes also for the Blue Mountain dam.

Projects Listed By Engineers.

The lists of tentative project allocations submitted by the engineers included:

Lower Mississippi river valley flood control	\$30,000,000
Revetments	2,400,000
Levees	4,800,000
Dredging	3,900,000
St. Francis river project	2,100,000
White river backwater levee	300,000
Rights-of-way	300,000
Surveys, gages and observations	600,500
General flood control	\$70,000,000
Denison reservoir, Red river, Texas and Oklahoma	4,800,000
Nimrod reservoir, Arkansas river basin, Arkansas	1,500,000
Clearwater reservoir, White river basin, Missouri	2,400,000
Norfolk reservoir, White river basin, Arkansas	2,200,000
Great Salt Plains reservoir, Oklahoma	1,200,000
Fort Supply reservoir, Oklahoma	2,250,000
Office, chief of engineers, surveys and contingencies	286,300
Enraging (general)	300,000
Preliminary examinations and surveys	3,000,000
War Department	1,500,000
Agriculture Department	1,500,000
Total, general flood control	\$70,000,000

Additional tentative allocations proposed by engineers if Congress should appropriate \$25,000,000 more than the \$70,000,000 budget estimate approved by the House included:

Appeal Made For Dam On Little Red

3-14-40

Washington, March 13 (AP). — C. S. Christian of Little Rock, representing the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, appeared before the Projects Committee of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress today to ask favorable consideration of a proposal for a dam on the Little Red river to irrigate rice fields in the Grand Prairie section of Arkansas.

The cost of the project was estimated at \$15,000,000, which would include the expense of a canal to bring water to the rice lands. Christian asserted the proposed dam could develop 10,000 horsepower and that some of the cost should be charged to flood control and power.

To List Projects. The committee, contemplating economy efforts of Congress, decided government spending on navigation, flood control and water conservation was an asset, not a liability, and should be carried on the Treasury's books as "investments."

Roy Miller Corpus Christi, Tex., committee member for the Gulf of Mexico division, made the suggestion. Chairman William J. Driver appointed him and H. H. Buckman, Jacksonville, Fla., as a subcommittee to prepare a resolution to that effect for presentation to the Congress tomorrow.

The committee will submit a list of projects for endorsement to the congress, an independent organization which uses its influence to obtain appropriations for navigation, flood control and conservation work.

Committee endorsement of flood protection works for Oakdale and Harriman, Tenn., was asked by Representative Jennings (Dem., Tenn.). The cities, in a mountainous section, were subject to annual floods since lumbering operations have deforested the area, he said.

Reports Submitted. The Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association held its annual meeting today with Senator Overton (Dem., La.) presiding. Reports were submitted on the status of various projects in the alluvial valley.

President Against More Authorizations.

President Roosevelt informed three senators Congress should not authorize any more waterways undertakings at this session.

Chairman Bailey (Dem., N. C.) of the Senate Commerce Committee, and Senators Sheppard (Dem., Tex.) and McNary (Rep., Ore.), committee members, discussed the matter with Mr. Roosevelt. Bailey said the president believed enough authorizations for flood control and river and harbor

Clearwater Dam Bids To Be Asked Soon

3-1-40

Bids will be asked for construction of Clearwater dam on the Black river about 43 miles north of the Arkansas-Missouri state line and five miles northwest of Leeper, Mo., about the middle of March, Capt. D. W. Griffiths, chief of operations of the Little Rock District of United States Army Engineers, said yesterday. The period of advertisement will be 30 days. Estimated cost of the project is \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

The project will consist of an earth dam approximately 4,200 feet long with maximum elevation of about 608 feet, a saddle spillway and outlet works in the right abutment, he said. The work to be done under the advertisement will include only the outlet works, which will consist of forebay, intake structure, operating house, concrete-lined conduit, stilling basin and operating equipment for the outlet works. The operating equipment consists of three "Broome" type service gates and hoists and one "Broome" type emergency gate and traveling hoist.

FLOOD CONTROL FUND EXPECTED TO BE ENLARGED

3-8-40

Senate Relied On To Raise Total.

Washington, March 8 (AP). — Strategy rather than frugality apparently was responsible for House approval of the Budget Bureau's waterways estimates without any fight for increases on the part of navigation and flood control enthusiasts — the Senate might be more generous than the House.

With hardly a murmur of protest, the House passed the War Department civil functions appropriation bill for fiscal 1941 with exactly the budget estimate for flood control, and \$2,051,540 less than the scant budget allowance for rivers and harbors.

Representing reductions of more than \$101,000,000 below appropriations for the current year, the bill would supply \$70,000,000 for general flood control, \$30,000,000 for lower Mississippi river flood control, \$24,300,000 for new work on rivers and harbors (navigation), and \$42,421,510 for maintenance of existing rivers and harbors improvements during the 12 months beginning July 1.

With the army engineers, who do the work, on record with protests that these sums were not sufficient

for economical and orderly development of the two programs, why did House advocates of such projects make no effort to increase them? The answer is a double one — the Senate, and ultimately a conference committee.

The economy ax has been falling repeatedly in the House, but the Senate has always been generous to such congressional favorites as waterway projects — and House advocates hope to get the 1941 appropriations written up substantially there. When the Senate Appropriations Committee gets around to the civil functions bill — many representatives will be on hand to urge increases.

House Expected To Approve Senate Increases.

The day after the bill reached the House, flood control advocates met at the call of Representative Secrest (Dem., O.) to discuss tactics, came to the conclusion they could not muster enough votes in the House to raise the flood control item to the \$133,000,000 they wanted and decided to depend on the Senate for an increase.

If the Senate committee raises the amount, the Senate approves, a conference committee of senators and representatives will be appointed to adjust the differences.

House waterway advocates reason that their passive acceptance of budget estimates in the beginning will be a trump card at this stage — the House is not on record against increases, and House conferees could accept with better grace any additions the Senate might have made.

New List Not Compiled By Army Engineers.

During hearings before a House Appropriations Subcommittee, army engineers submitted a list of projects on which the budget estimates probably would be spent. They said these sums would not

permit them to start work on any flood control projects not under way already, but the committee wrote in a provision, which was approved by the House, that 10 per cent of flood control appropriations must be spent on new projects.

A list of projects for which allocations could be made if Congress provided \$25,000,000 more than budget estimates for flood control was offered by the engineers. Some of these probably would be started with the earmarked 10 per cent of the \$70,000,000. The engineers reported they have not prepared a list of allocations to reflect this House action.

As passed by the House, the bill carried separate appropriations of \$600,000 for Sacramento river, Cal., flood control; \$2,000,000 for the power plant at Fort Peck dam, Mont., and \$800,000 for the Bonneville dam, Ore., power plant.

The lists of tentative project allocations submitted by the engineers included:

Lower Mississippi river valley flood control	\$30,000,000
Revetments	2,400,000
Levees	4,800,000
Dredging	3,900,000
St. Francis river project	2,100,000
White river backwater levee	300,000
Rights-of-way	300,000
Surveys, gages and observations	600,500
General flood control	\$70,000,000
Denison reservoir, Red river, Texas and Oklahoma	4,800,000
Nimrod reservoir, Arkansas river basin, Arkansas	1,500,000
Clearwater reservoir, White river basin, Missouri	2,400,000
Norfolk reservoir, White river basin, Arkansas	2,200,000
Great Salt Plains reservoir, Oklahoma	1,200,000
Fort Supply reservoir, Oklahoma	2,250,000
Office, chief of engineers, surveys and contingencies	286,300
Enraging (general)	300,000
Preliminary examinations and surveys	3,000,000
War Department	1,500,000
Agriculture Department	1,500,000
Total, general flood control	\$70,000,000

Additional tentative allocations proposed by engineers if Congress should appropriate \$25,000,000 more than the \$70,000,000 budget estimate approved by the House included:

projects had been piled up for the next two or three years.

Bailey proposed last year that his committee remove all projects to cost more than \$10,500,000 from a rivers and harbors authorization bill, a suggestion which led to shelving the measure.

The House had approved a bill authorizing projects estimated to cost \$83,848,100. A Senate Commerce Subcommittee raised the total to \$407,655,600. Bailey informed the committee Congress was in no mood to accept such a bill, and the president would veto it if it passed. When the committee shelved the measure, Bailey reported the action to the Senate with the comment that "economy is abroad in the land."

Later a bill authorizing merely surveys of several scores of possible developments was approved by Congress as a substitute, but vetoed by Mr. Roosevelt. The president's conversation with the senators today was taken as an indication an authorization bill would meet the same fate this year.

Nimrod Dam Contract To Be Awarded

3-16-40

Col. Eugene Reybold, division engineer of the Southwestern Division of the United States Army Engineers, is expected to approve award of a contract for construction of Nimrod dam on the Fourche la Pave river in Perry county to Russ Mitchell Inc. and Brown and Root, Inc., of Houston, Tex., early next week. Capt. Lee B. Washburne, executive engineer of the Little Rock District, said yesterday. Bids were received February 27. The companies made a joint bid of \$1,100,689.

A notice to proceed with the work will be issued shortly after the contract is signed, he said. The office building, laboratory, and garage are near completion at the dam site and the government personnel has been stationed there.

The Arkansas Highway Department reported excellent progress is being made on a loop of Highway 7, which will approach the site from the north, he said. After completion of the dam, the highway will pass over the dam and rejoin the main road about one-fourth of a mile from the dam.

16 Waterways Projects On Endorsed List

3-16-40

Washington, March 15 (AP).—Legislation to authorize new navigation and flood control developments was recommended to Congress today by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress despite President Roosevelt's indication such action would be vetoed. The group urged Congress to appropriate more than budget estimates for such work in 1941 on projects already authorized.

It adopted the report of its Projects Committee endorsing for construction at once of 16 projects estimated to cost \$86,155,150. Last year the endorsed list contained 54 projects, estimated cost of which was \$696,689,946, and these retained the group's approval.

War Alters Stand.
The waterways enthusiasts rescinded their endorsement of the St. Lawrence seaway, and opposed federal claims to ownership of submerged coastal mineral lands as invasion of state rights and violation of property rights. The action on the St. Lawrence project was taken "due to the fact that Canada is now at war." The resolution asked that "before taking action the Senate consider all implications arising from the proposed construction."

The group endorsed beach erosion studies by the army engineers; a water conservation program in the Great Plains, estimated to cost \$5,000,000 supplemented by relief labor, and a five-year reclamation construction program with annual appropriations of \$100,000,000.

Wheeler-Lea Bill Opposed.
Opposition to the Wheeler-Lea transportation bill, to give the Interstate Commerce Commission rate regulatory authority over water carriers, was expressed. The

group denounced any attempt to levy a tonnage tax on water commerce.

Federal irrigation projects should be executed solely by the Interior Department, another resolution said, and the Agriculture Department should retain its jurisdiction over erosion-control and reforestation problems.

Representative Short (Rep., Mo.) was re-elected president of the group. William J. Driver, former representative from Arkansas, was renamed Chairman of directors. Representative Secrest (Dem., O.) was named vice president; Fred Beneke, Washington, re-elected secretary-treasurer, and William H. Webb, Washington, re-elected executive vice president.

The convention classified as "meritorious" these projects, meaning they probably would be "endorsed" as soon as final favorable reports were made by army engineers: Little Red river flood control and Grand Prairie irrigation, Arkansas.

"Expeditions reports" were asked on authorized surveys on the Red river project, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.

Ellis Urges Group To Become 'More Militant'

Representative Ellis (Dem., Ark.) urged delegates to make their organization "more militant" in their campaign for "an adequate appropriation for flood control, water power development and all other correlated developments."

Criticizing the president and director of the budget for having "relegated" into themselves the right to legislate in recommending only \$70,000,000 for general flood control work next fiscal year, Ellis said:

"Apparently it means nothing to the budget, the president and the [House] Appropriations Committee that army engineers reported a few weeks ago they could profitably expend for the fiscal year 1941, in this program, \$206,624,000, for the budget and the president and the committee arbitrarily struck the figure off at \$70,000,000 and reported that figure in the bill to the House."

Ellis pointed out that the 1938 authorization bill authorized six projects on the White river system in Arkansas and Missouri. "But it authorized only \$25,000,000," he said. "It will require more than \$100,000,000 to complete the six projects. What is true of the White river is true of rivers generally."

Says Whole Program May Be Wrecked.

Many choice projects, Ellis said, have not been authorized on rivers in all parts of the country.

"For instance," he said, "on the White river all of the six authorized are on tributaries. Army engineers are just now about ready to report on two of the three projects heretofore surveyed on the main stem of the White. We are hoping to get Wildcat Shoals, which will hereafter be known as Bull Shoals, in Arkansas and Table Rock in Missouri included in the authorization bill on which hearings are to start next week. There are two more we hope for next, but on which there are no reports as yet, Beaver on the main stem and one on the upper Buffalo."

At the rate of \$70,000,000 for the country, Ellis declared, "not a single new project can be begun for three years. I submit that we are in danger of wrecking this whole flood control program before we get it started. In Arkansas not a foot of dirt has been turned yet under the program. The people may finally get tired of this hopeful waiting."

No New Flood Control Work Possible Now

3-19-40

Washington, March 18 (AP).—Major Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of army engineers, declared today no additional flood control projects could be undertaken in a dozen important areas without new authority from Congress.

He made this assertion to the House Flood Control Committee, which undertook to draft an omnibus authorization bill involving about \$185,000,000 in flood control projects. Supporting the committee plan, General Schley said work now under way or already completed would exhaust congressional authorizations in these sections:

Valleys of the Connecticut, Susquehanna, Ohio, Missouri, White, Arkansas, Ouachita, and Willamette rivers, and basins of the Colorado and Brazos rivers in Texas, Sebawaing river in Michigan, and Kings river and Tulare lake in California.

Engineers said reports recommend-

ing about \$213,000,000 of projects had been filed with Senate and House committees.

Hoping to escape administration opposition, Chairman Whittington (Dem., Miss.) was attempting to hold the omnibus measure to a smaller figure. The administration has frowned on a huge authorization bill for rivers and harbors, which includes a long list of flood control items.

Reviewing the program, General Schley said Congress had authorized projects costing \$692,000,000 since 1936. He said this program included 377 projects in 37 states. He declared \$440,049,000 was needed in appropriations to complete the program already authorized.

Nimrod Work Assured For Fiscal Year

3-20-40

The exhaustion of federal funds for flood control projects, as reported in Washington Monday, will not retard the program of construction this fiscal year on the Nimrod reservoir (Perry county) projects, C. S. Christian, chief engineer of the state Flood Control Commission, said yesterday.

He said he doubted that plans for the Blue Mountain project on the Petit Jean river would be affected by the reported liquidation of flood control money already appropriated.

Capt. Lee B. Washburne, executive officer of the Little Rock District, United States Army Engineers, said the dam site for the Nimrod project, its designing and preliminary work had been paid for and there was on hand in his office approximately \$500,000 to pay actual contractual obligations up to the end of this fiscal year, June 30.

Additional Money Expected.
He said it was anticipated additional money would be appropriated by Congress this session to finance the entire project, which, he said, would cost approximately \$2,000,000. The War Department has approved the labor cost of \$1,014,000. Should additional money for flood control not be appropriated the contractor on the Nimrod job would have two alternatives, Captain Washburne said: Work could be shut down June 30, or the contractor could himself finance completion of the reservoir and then submit his account to the War Department.

Mr. Christian was uncertain as to the status of further projects on the White river but requests for allocations for work on the Bull Shoals and Table Rock projects have been in the hands of the army engineers for some time, he said.

The lack of funds for additional projects was reported to the House Flood Control Committee by Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley during hearing on a proposed omnibus authorization bill involving \$185,000,000 for flood control projects.

Arkansas TVA Plan Endorsed

3-21-40 Gazette

Announcing it was acting in harmony with the Arkansas delegation in Congress, the state Flood Control Commission adopted a resolution yesterday approving, in effect, Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey's recent proposal to establish a "little TVA" in Arkansas.

It was explained the resolution was adopted to "show the unanimous approval" in Arkansas of a proposal to place the federal government in the business of generating cheap hydroelectric power in connection with flood control in the White river valley.

The resolution, which will be presented to the House Flood Control Committee at Washington Monday by members of the commission, calls on Congress to authorize construction of Bull Shoals and Table Rock dams. The former is on the Baxter-Marion county line; the latter is in Missouri.

It also recommends that the federal government install hydroelectric equipment through action of the War Department. The commission explained that the War Department does not now hold specific authority to direct such installations.

As outlined in the lieutenant governor's proposal, issued during the absence of Governor Bailey from the state, the plan would empower the government to generate electricity, sell it to the highest bidder and then control rates by establishing a maximum resale price.

Official Opinion Said To Be Solidified.

While not alluding to any plans already proposed by others, Charles S. Christian, commission engineer, said: "It is evident that, if the public is to derive any benefit from cheaper electricity, a resale 'ceiling' should be fixed. When within transmission distance of such a unit, consumers should receive lower rates."

"It has been the experience of the Tennessee Valley Authority that, when more electricity is generated and the rate is reduced, the distribution companies make more money."

Mr. Christian emphasized that his remarks were his personal observations and not those of the commission.

Chairman R. E. Overman of the commission said there "never was a time when official opinion on flood control and power development was so solidified in Arkansas."

A check of legislative and congressional records indicated that most interested officials are agreed upon the project.

The plan was proposed January 30, 1937, by Senator John E. Miller, then an Arkansas representative in the House. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington on that date said:

"The plan would set up an Arkansas Valleys Authority, similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority, with broad powers for flood control, power production, navigation and other development of the White and Arkansas rivers."

"Since the Congress is without authority to regulate the rate at which electricity may be produced and sold within a state by private companies, it appears that the only way electricity can be furnished to the people at reasonable cost is for the government to produce it."

1939 Legislature Also Endorsed Proposal.

The project also will go to the House Flood Control Committee with the endorsement of the 1939 legislature and Governor Bailey, House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, approved February 17, 1939, set out:

"The demand for cheap electric power, adequate flood control and recreational facilities has increased since the earlier report of the Corps of Engineers. Over 50 per cent of the electric energy used in Arkansas is imported from other states."

"Fifty thousand farmers will be ready for electric service requiring 50,000,000 kilowatt hours before the hydroelectric plants could be constructed."

"We hereby petition the Congress of the United States to pass, and the president of the United States to approve, if passed, adequate legislation providing sufficient funds for the complete multiple use development of the White river basin in Arkansas and Missouri."

Funds Urged For Dams In Ozark Areas

3-25-40

House Flood Control Group Hears Arkansas, Missouri Witnesses.

Washington (AP).—Arkansas and Missouri witnesses told a House flood control sub-committee today cheap power would make a virtual "paradise" of the Ozark country.

They asked the committee to include authorization for construction of multiple-purpose dams at Table Rock in Missouri and Bull Shoals in Arkansas in the White river system in an omnibus flood control bill the committee plans to introduce this session.

Endorsing the dams as beneficial to both flood control and cheap power needs were County Judge Arthur N. Wood of Marion county, Ark.; John T. Woodruff of Springfield, Mo.; Henry Young, Marion county member of the Arkansas House of Representatives, and Rex Allman of Forsyth, Mo.

Representative Short (R., Mo.), president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, told the committee that cheaper electric power would bring "many new industries into the region," to take advantage of timber, zinc and lead deposits.

He said the Ozark country was "a land of a million smiles," but that it had little coal, oil or similar fuel. "We should not be denied the development of our water power," he said.

He said a report from the chief of army engineers on the feasibility of constructing the two projects would be available later in the spring.

The committee also was asked to approve a bill (S 857) passed by the Senate to authorize a \$2,800,000 levee system on the east side of

the White river between Augusta and Clarendon, in Arkansas.

The bill also calls for construction of protective works at the town of DeValls Bluff, at an estimated cost to the government of \$47,500.

Ross Mathis of Cotton Plant, Ark., testified the annual savings in flood control damage in the area would offset the cost of the development.

Immediate Building Of Dam Urged

3-28-40

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, March 27.—The House Committee on Flood Control of Congress will be urged to recommend immediate construction of the Blakely dam on the Ouachita river north of Hot Springs and a request will be made for an increase in appropriation from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. This was decided by the Ouachita Valley Association which held a special meeting here today.

Secretary W. C. McClure, Camden, will appear before the committee in Washington next week. The association adopted a resolution today, offered by Adolph Felsenthal, Camden, which urged President Roosevelt and Congress to favor the request "for the prompt construction of the Blakely dam and reservoir to its fullest possible development, size and extent; for extension of navigation and prevention of floods and for the increase in power and reduction of cost of hydroelectric energy for this natural resource on the Ouachita river."

A. P. & L. Seeks Delay.
The Arkansas Power and Light Company has a petition pending before the Federal Power Commission asking that date for completion of the Blakely dam be postponed. The petition has met with considerable opposition. Chairman Lamar Williamson, Monticello, reminded the delegates that if it were not for the request for an increase in the appropriation by the government for the Blakely dam, that subject would not be brought before the Flood Control Committee.

Secretary McClure also was authorized to ask for flood control reservoirs on the Caddo, Little Missouri and Saline rivers. Action on these subjects, the delegates were told, must be obtained immediately. Chairman Williamson and Secretary McClure cited the "growing trend on the part of Congress for economy." The officials said that if they did not get favorable action at this time, "it will be 10 years before we have another such opportunity."

Original cost of the Blakely dam was estimated at \$6,000,000, with a third of the cost to be contributed by the government for flood control.

Lower Valley Believed Safe From Floods

GAZETTE 3-31-40

Memphis, Tenn., March 30 (AP).—As the time for spring flood levels approaches, army engineers express the belief the lower Mississippi valley at last is safe from the devastation of waters.

The broad, alluvial delta, which never could have been developed without flood control, rapidly is taking its place as one of the world's richest agricultural producers. It took a century of toil and a half billion dollars to do it, but engineers believe they have muzzled the Mississippi.

In February, 1937, the greatest recorded volume of water in its history swept down stream and rolled on harmlessly to the sea.

Although tributaries overflowed (the Ohio inundated Louisville, Paducah, Cincinnati and other river cities), leaving thousands homeless, the massive main line levee imprisoning the Mississippi from Cairo, Ill., to the Gulf did not break along the distance.

Ten years before, the area was the scene of one of the nation's worst peacetime disasters when the river poured through the levees, inundating 18,000 square miles of land and leaving 600,000 homeless and 250 dead. The overflow did nearly \$500,000,000 damage—a sum equal to the total spent on flood control during the last 60 years.

No Major Flood Expected.
Although their levee system withstood the record thrusts of the stream three years ago, army engineers have continued to build new fortifications, strengthening possible weak spots and

designing new spillways and cutoffs to ease the flow of future flood waters.

They don't believe there will be a major flood to test their efforts this year. "But even if there is, this whole valley can feel assurance in the fact that they are protected by a levee system engineers think will withstand anything the Mississippi has to offer," they say.

The Mississippi's levee and flood control system, which hydraulic engineers have described as "a bigger job than building the Panama canal," extends back nearly three centuries. Riparian (river bank) landowners first threw up crude earthen mounds to protect low spots on their cotton plantations. The work spread to the community, thence to states and finally to the federal government.

Today, huge supplemental projects help the levees control flood waters. Engineers have cut across elbow bends, shortening the stream and speeding the water flow and its discharge into the Gulf. To trap and temporarily hold higher waters, they have built reservoirs along the main stream and its tributaries and constructed outlets and spillways which divert the flow, re-routing the swollen river by channels other than the main stream.

The magnitude of the task is evidenced in the fact that the Mississippi and its tributaries drain a 1,245,000-square mile region, or more one-third the area of the United States. This territory extends from Helena, Mont., to Jamestown, N. Y., and from Las Vegas, N. M., to Asheville, N. C.

To add to the burden, engineers declare the stream defies "all acknowledged laws of hydrodynamics," and recognizes "on law of averages."

First Levee in 1717.
Construction of the first levee began in 1717 when settlers of the areas now New Orleans threw up a mile-long protective embankment. By 1812, the project stretched along the river's west bank for 185 miles and its east bank for 155 miles. The work cost \$6,000,000, but it was crude and far from adequate.

From Cairo to the Gulf in those days, the river and its main tributaries each spring filled a huge inland sea—a delta averaging 45 miles in width as far down as Plaquemine, La., and spreading to a width of 150 miles between there and the Gulf.

Across from the towering Memphis bluffs, floodwaters swept over Arkansas lands to Crowley's Ridge, 60 miles away. In that area, now rich in agriculture and fast becoming an industrial region, settlers built their homes and barns on heavy logs which became arks in flood season.

Virtually the same conditions existed in numerous other communities. Much of the unprotected land was owned by the federal government.

Aid Asked in 1845.
The first major movement for a collective battle against the river came in 1845 when 700 Southerners met in Memphis to ask federal aid. John C. Calhoun presided over that meeting.

Congress acted five years later, granting to the states all unsold swamp and overflowed lands within their limits. The land was to be sold to raise funds with which to build new levees and bulwark old ones.

Since the government incurred no financial obligation the move successfully evaded charges that use of federal funds for flood control was unconstitutional. Up to and for years beyond that time government operations were carried on under the guise of improving navigation.

Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri opened offices to sell the land and named commissioners to supervise levee building. Thus levee boards came into existence. The boards were authorized to tax their districts for funds with which to construct protective embankments. The quick succession of floods dealt a staggering blow to the boards, and following the 1927 disaster many districts had outstanding public bonds and real estate mortgages totaling more than 200 per cent of their assessed valuations.

By 1858 about 2,000 miles of levees had been built on both banks of the Mississippi as far north as Cape Girardeau, Mo. The embankments averaged eight to 10 feet high and 50 to 60 feet wide at the base.

The valley people had spent \$40,000,000 on these levees. They felt safe. But down the river rolled the great floods of 1858 and 1859, riddling the earthworks and devastating wide areas.

War Between the States.
Another blow followed—the War Between the States. Rebuilding levees was forgotten. Armies of both sides ripped through the remaining embankments during military operations. The neglect carried over into the Reconstruction period and by 1878 hundreds of miles of main line dikes had disappeared.

Commission Created.
The next step in the federal flood control program was in 1879 when Congress created the Mississippi River Commission which still functions in conjunction with army engineers Channel deepening, in the name of navigation, was the commission's first act.

The necessity for constitutional

camouflage diminished in succeeding years until in 1917 the federal government went in for levee building for flood control purposes. The increasing population of the area and its expanding railroad and highway networks were major factors in emphasizing the need for adequate flood protection.

During the 1927 flood more than 3,000 miles of railways were forced to halt operations from 10 days to four months. One line, the Missouri Pacific, had more than 600 miles of roadbed inundated.

Under government control the levee system grew rapidly and by 1926 about 1,815 miles of dikes, averaging 18 feet high, sprawled the length of the lower valley. Much of the construction fell far short of modern standards.

Flood heights climbed with the levees. The embankments made crests five to 10 feet higher between Cairo and the Red river and five feet higher at New Orleans.

Responsibility Recognized.

Then came the disastrous flood of 1927. The relief and rehabilitation work of Herbert Hoover, then secretary of commerce, during this calamity proved a factor in his election to the presidency the following year.

Congress met while the debacle was still fresh in the nation's mind and passed the flood control act, recognizing the government's responsibility for flood control in the valley.

Army engineers set to work drawing up flood control plans, basing their figures on a theoretical flood 25 per cent larger than that of 1927.

The plan called for the expenditure of \$296,000,000—to raise higher and stronger levees on the Mississippi and important tributaries; to provide a 70-mile long floodway paralleling the river from Birds Point, Mo., to New Madrid, Mo., (this is a huge waterless reservoir which can be flooded to relieve pressure at Cairo); and the use of cutoffs to speed the flow to the sea.

The flood control act of 1936 went further, setting up a six-year plan for improvement of the river's course and maintenance of proper navigation channels. Though still building, the project stood its crucial 1937 test and in 1939 high waters disclosed flood stages had been lowered as much as 12 feet at some points by the cutoff and channel improvement work.

Great Improvement.

The system of cutoffs is described as the most advanced flood control step in recent years. They serve a twofold purpose, aiding navigation and increasing the "free board," or safety margin, of the levee.

Cutoffs already completed between the Arkansas river's mouth and Baton Rouge have reduced water distance about 120 miles, or 26 per cent.

Engineers now have a hydraulic laboratory, the waterways experiment station at Vicksburg, where answers to river problems are sought by use of large-scale models.

Flood damage of recent years was caused not by weakened levees but by backwaters, a problem that continues to baffle engineers. Water backs from the Mississippi river up into its tributaries and overflows into marginal lands. Since levees cannot be placed at the mouth of the tributaries, the cutoff, which is gradually diminishing the overflow to a minimum, thus far offers the nearest approach to a solution.

But given enough time—and money—engineers believe the entire valley area, including that of tributaries, will be protected. The work is of necessity a continuing program, because the constantly-improving drainage systems of cities are annually pouring more water into the Mississippi.

Opposes Dam Building By Government

4-3-40

Special to the Gazette.

Yellville, March 2.—J. H. Hand of Yellville, attorney and manager of the Ozark Mine Owners League, issued a statement today in reply to an interview with Adolph Felsenthal of Camden, published in the Gazette last Tuesday, concerning construction of the proposed Blakely dam on the Ouachita river. The statement follows:

An article in a recent issue of the Gazette, setting forth views of Adolph Felsenthal in support of government construction and control of Blakely dam on the Ouachita river, brings to mind questions of public concern. Since our interests personally are with power development in the upper White river valley, we have no part in the argument over Blakely as a local issue.

From the viewpoint maintained by Mr. Felsenthal, the subject is strongly presented and, having known him for years as a live factor for advancement in his part of the state, we accord to him the highest motives of sincerity and conviction in the posi-

tion he so ardently asserts on this issue. As a citizen having a common concern in the welfare of Arkansas insofar as general revenues might be affected, we feel impelled to take friendly issue on points in the article mentioned.

Cites Value of Dams.

It is our conviction that primary utilization of these streams for power production and bringing in of large power-using industries with pay rolls, will benefit the state as a whole far greater than to make flood control and navigation paramount, under government ownership. It is a recognized fact that power dams incidentally reduce flood hazards and aid navigation. The benefits of power thus generated may be extended into every part of the state while those from flood control and navigation projects are necessarily limited to areas along the streams on which they are situated. The importance of protection for people in the low lands against flood waters must not be ignored, although they come but occasionally, while waters to be thus controlled serve no useful purpose the rest of the time. On the other hand, waters that are stored for power are at work every day and hour.

Government Ownership.

It should be borne in mind that government ownership of dams on Ouachita and White rivers would take from the state, counties and schools huge tax revenues which would be realized from private utilities in the same position. These taxes would directly affect people in every community of the state, especially relating to the public schools.

According to United States News magazine of March 1, the reported reduction of rates by TVA does not impress counties and municipalities that no longer get the tax revenue from private utility companies that use to be there. The gist of the problem, says the News, lies in the fact that TVA and municipalities that have built or bought systems to distribute power have removed from local tax rolls, property which once yielded \$3,538,400 a year. Now it is proposed by adherents of government ownership that the government make payment to state and their subdivisions as compensation for tax revenue lost through TVA operations. Thus, while reducing rates to favored users of electricity in the Tennessee valley, additional taxes are to be laid upon people in Arkansas and every other state in order to replace taxes which government ownership have destroyed. By the same token, counties in Arkansas, far removed from any dam, may be called on to make up taxes to be lost from government ownership of proposed dams in this state.

Differences In Cost.

A striking feature of Mr. Felsenthal's proposal is that the government build Blakely dam at a cost of \$14,000,000, although a private utility company that is known in Arkansas for its responsibility, is proposing to build a dam at the same site for \$6,000,000; same to include flood control extension on the structure at a cost of only \$2,000,000 to the government.

Upon reflection, it appears rather singular that, although the ravages of floods have ever been here, the agitation for flood control and government ownership did not vocalize to much extent in Arkansas until private enterprise had pioneered the way through harnessing water power at an outlay of many millions of dollars, and thus demonstrated the feasibility of such projects that have brought new enterprises to the state and extended conveniences into thousands of Arkansas homes. But, it is contended, public ownership gives the people lower rates than the utilities offer. Granting that to be true, but at what cost to the rest of the people who must bear part of the staggering losses in tax revenue for states, counties, schools and towns that are getting these low rates?

While we hold no brief for utility companies regarding rates of service, it is assumed that their charges are based upon sound business factors that take into consideration interest and depletion on investment, costs of upkeep and operation, together with a profit for investors. This assumption rests upon the fact that Arkansas maintains a Utilities Commission which is composed of able and honest men who are well paid by the state to protect consumers of utility products against extortion or overcharge. Since extensive hearings have been held by the commission on those matters, its members doubtless feel that prevailing rates are reasonable, or a better measure would be taken.

Waterway Freight Savings.

As a result of government construction of Blakely dam: While navigation has been the means of building up important commercial centers, with savings to shippers in large volume, such has been along streams that were naturally navigable, being plied by privately owned packets, and not on artificially made waterways, being traversed by government subsidized carriers. In either event low rates can be available only to shippers who are conveniently near such line of service.

While the port of Camden may

have cleared 100,000 bales of cotton during the past season, yet there were around 1,000,000 bales more Arkansas cotton whose growers reaped no benefits from the Camden port waterway service, but in all probability might be taxed in some form to replace lost local taxes at Blakely, should the government build a \$14,000,000 dam there, so as to deepen Ouachita river channel to admit passage of the larger barges that perhaps operate under government subsidy, in competition with other carriers that get no subsidy but pay heavy taxes to help maintain the state and its institutions.

BILL EXPECTED TO AUTHORIZE DAMS IN STATE

4-12-40

Three New Projects Predicted.

Gazette

Washington, April 11 (AP).—Arkansas members of Congress are confident the omnibus flood control authorization bill, on which the House Flood Control Committee is working, will include authority for three new multiple-purpose dams for the White river system.

Recommended by the Arkansas delegation are dams at Table Rock in Missouri, Bull Shoals and Norfolk in Arkansas. The Norfolk dam has been authorized as a \$25,000,000 flood control project. Object this year is to increase the authorization to \$30,000,000 to allow for a dam high enough to provide facilities for generation of electricity.

In view of President Roosevelt's expressed opposition to any new flood control authorizations this year, there was uncertainty whether the omnibus bill would pass. Even should it pass and escape a veto, work would depend on appropriations.

Ellis Confident President Would Sign Bill.

Representative Clyde Ellis of Bentonville expressed confidence "Mr. Roosevelt will sign whatever bill is passed." He added:

"President Roosevelt can not consistently veto a bill that will save millions annually in property to the people of Arkansas, that will save untold human lives, a bill that will bring light and happiness and development and progress to an impoverished people in a vast region filled with all kinds of natural resources but those essential for power."

Pointing out that White river system dams at Norfolk, Clearwater, Lone Rock, Water Valley, Greers Ferry and Belle Foley already are authorized, Ellis said little progress could be made on them for the reason the authority called for an expenditure of only \$25,000,000 when multiple-purpose dams at these sites would cost a total of \$100,000,000. Ellis said the \$25,000,000 ceiling in this authorization should be raised.

"Clearwater and Norfolk, authorized in the 1938 act, have already been selected and are regarded as started," he said. "We are asking authorization for Bull Shoals and Table Rock reservoirs. It is generally known that favorable recommendations are coming through for dual-purpose reservoirs at these sites—that is, flood control and power—and that the two reservoirs, completed, will cost around \$72,000,000."

Need for Electric Power in Area Cited.

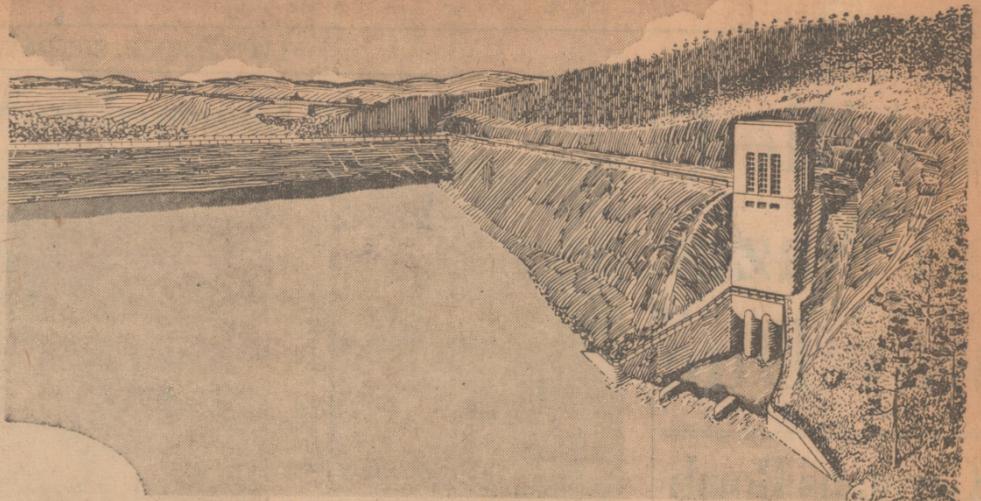
Ellis believed Arkansas's peculiar situation should outweigh objections of public power opponents.

"In this vast [White river basin] area, a region 700 miles long and several hundred miles wide, there is not a ton of coal, a barrel of oil, nor a cubic foot of gas," he said. "In other words, we have no natural power. In this region there are several counties in my district alone that have no electricity whatever even in the larger towns, except from local power plants, most of which are selling their current at a rate upwards of 15 cents per kilowatt-hour, and not giving efficient service either."

"Underlying this whole mountain region are vast and valuable mineral resources in commercial quantities, none of which are being de-

Work to Start on Blue Mountain Dam

DEMOCRAT 4-21-40



An artist's conception of the Blue Mountain dam on Petit Jean river, on which construction is expected to begin this summer, is shown above from plans in the office of Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, U. S. Army district engineer. The dam is to be about 15 miles west of Danville, Yell county.

The picture shows the dam joining the south bank of the river and the opening into the outlet works, approximately 600 feet above the dam. The outlet works will include a tunnel through the south bank, emptying into a small stream which will join the river below the dam. The spillway is proposed over a low place on the north bank of the river, not shown in the picture.

Construction of the outlet works of Blue Mountain dam, to be built on Petit Jean river about 15 miles west of Danville, Yell county, will begin early this summer if present plans of U. S. Army Engineers are completed. It will be the third dam to be put under construction in the Little Rock district and the second in Arkansas in the comprehensive flood control program authorized by Congress in 1938.

Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer, yesterday said bids for construction of the outlet works would be invited this week and would be received about May 27. Construction usually begins 30 to 60 days after bids are received.

Plans for the Blue Mountain dam call for an earth structure approximately 2,700 feet long at its top elevation with outlet works through

veloped because of lack of power. Our people are, and have been for a long time, crying out for hydro-electric development along the White."

Declares Market Available For Potential Power.

Ellis said the Federal Power Commission and army engineers agreed that more than 500,000 kilowatts of hydro-electric power were potentially capable of development in the White river basin, "with an output of more than 2,000,000 kilowatt hours annually."

"The Federal Power Commission advises we that there is a market in this region for more power than any one of these dams would generate and that there would be sufficient market for the power of the second largest dam by the time it could be completed." He said so far as he knew "there is no opposition to this hydro-electric development by power companies operating in this region."

Lone Rock Reservoir Site Sought

GAZETTE 4-28-40

The Little Rock District of U. S. Army Engineers will start an extensive exploring program to find a suitable site for the Lone Rock reservoir on the Buffalo river Tuesday, Capt. Lee B. Washbourne, executive officer of the district, said yesterday. The project was authorized by Congress in 1938.

Col. S. L. Scott, district engineer, and Maj. Thomas Kern, spent the past week on the river seeking a desirable location, he said. A party from the U. S. Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Miss., will arrive Tuesday to aid the operations.

The work to be done will include augur boring and blasting, he said. Holes will be dug and explosives will be set off to determine the effect an earthquake would have on the rock formations, he said. The blasting will not be dangerous to residents or stock in the area.

The project is under the direction of Colonel Scott. A. R. Sheppard of the chief of engineers office, Washington, will serve as a consultant. The work is expected to be complete in about 30 days, he said. Duffin Iron Company of Chicago,

the south bank to the river and a saddle spillway in the north bank of the river at the point selected for the dam.

The outlet works will include a tunnel through the south bank of the river approximately 600 feet upstream from the face of the dam. The tunnel will be 20 feet in diameter and will be approximately 1,020 feet long, of which more than 900 feet will be excavated through the rock. The openings to the tunnel will have necessary gates to control the flow of water which will join the river again about a half-mile below the dam.

The spillway will be built over a low place on the north bank of the river, according to present plans.

The announcement yesterday of the prospective bids included the following items in the outlet works: Common excavation, 238,500 cubic

yards; rock excavation, 64,900 cubic yards; tunnel excavation, 18,750 cubic yards; steel, more than 1,200,000 pounds; cement, 23,000 barrels.

Construction of engineer offices and warehouse at the dam site will be started soon in preparation for beginning work on the first contract.

Bids were invited yesterday for materials for a river gauge house to be erected on White river near Calico Rock. The bids will be received at 2 p. m., April 29.

Bids will be received at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the Hotel Marion for the construction of the outlet works of the Clearwater dam on Black river, 32 miles northwest of Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Bids will be received to 2 p. m. Friday for furnishing a new gate for Lock No. 1 on White river near Batesville.

Ill., was the apparent low bidder at an opening held recently for the replacement of a miter gate on the White river at Batesville, he said. The bid was \$2,798.

FLOOD CONTROL PLAN FOR STATE NEARER REALITY

Committee Favors Authorizations.

GAZETTE 5-8-40

Washington, May 7 (AP).—The Arkansas flood control program took a long stride forward last week when the House Flood Control Committee reported its new omnibus flood control authorization bill. The bill must pass both houses of Congress and face a possible veto. President Roosevelt has said he thought there should be no new authorizations this year.

After passage of the bill, the question of providing appropriations to finance the authorizations would provide another legislative bridge to cross.

High-Head Dams at Northfork and Belle Foley Provided.

The new bill incorporates H. R. 9037, introduced by Representative Clyde Ellis, to provide for a full high-head dam at Northfork on the North Fork river, increasing a previous authorization by \$5,000,000.

An additional \$8,000,000 was authorized for the construction of Belle Foley, a flood control dam on the Eleven Point river, a tributary of the White, in Representative Wilbur Mills' district.

Ellis said the authorization "will enable the army engineers to use their high-head dam design for Northfork, which is already prepared, and to let the contract immediately for the full high-head structure." He said this dam would be 225 feet high, would create a lake 47 miles long and would develop, roughly, 218,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

The bill would authorize \$2,847,500 to construct a levee from Augusta to Clarendon, along the White river, a project for which Mills and Represent-

atives E. C. ("Took") Gathings have worked.

Fast Work Necessary To Include New Projects.

Ellis had to work fast to get the Norfolk increase in the bill. Under a rule of the committee, projects will not be considered on which army engineers have not reported. The report on Norfolk had not come in when the time neared for the committee to hear White river proposals. Ellis adopted the short cut of introducing a separate bill for the full high-head dam.

After the introduction, he went to see army engineers to seek expeditious handling of the report. The engineers had to take the question up with the Budget Bureau and the Budget Bureau with the president, and special reports were required from the Federal Power Commission. Within eight days after introduction of the bill, the report had completed its rounds in time to be filed with the committee.

Nine persons, including Layton Coffman, a member of the state Flood Control Commission, appeared to testify in favor of the larger dam. Other witnesses in behalf of Arkansas projects included L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board; Charles Christian, chief engineer of the state Flood Control Commission; Thomas Fitzhugh, chairman of the state Utilities Commission, Chairman R. E. Overman and Secretary W. C. McClure of the state Control Commission.

Engineers May Approve Bull Shoals Reservoir.

The major White river report may be made by engineers late this week. It may contain a favorable recommendation on the Bull Shoals reservoir for the White. If it does, Ellis said, an attempt will be made to add it to the omnibus authorization bill.

Start of Nimrod Dam Looks to Far-

DEMOCRAT 5-12-40

Flung Flood Control

Dam With Reservoir Is One of About 20 Projected for Arkansas River System; Plan Also Extends to White and Other Streams of the State in Essential Program.

Arkansas District Expected to Be Among Leaders in This Line of Activity

By WILLIAM JOHNSON.

All of the war isn't in Europe and China. We've got a battlefield right here in Arkansas.

It doesn't flame and thunder with death, doesn't fill cemeteries and hospitals with its pitiful victims.

But though it lacks the blaze and tumult and bitterness of the war overseas, this battlefield of ours is nevertheless engaging a grim foe—one that comes upon us quietly and sneakily, like the "fifth column," striking swiftly, and inflicting tremendous losses on the choicest areas of the state.

The foe is floods, an enemy which, as Arkansas knows only too well, can launch a "blitzkrieg" that for sudden, ravaging destructiveness, would command Herr Hitler's moist-eyed admiration.

For long years, and at great cost, the engineers of the United States War Department have fought this enemy within our gates. Now they are assailing it with a new and powerful weapon.

The new weapon is reservoirs to impound surplus water, and stop it from raging down the river courses. Thus Old General Flood is to be kept from gathering up his watery host for a sweep powerful enough to break over or through the levees raised against his ruinous irruptions.

A far-flung array of these reservoirs is planned for the river systems that have so long despoiled the rich bottom-lands of Arkansas—to be scattered over the several states in the basins of the rivers, at strategic points for holding up excess water.

And it looks as if Arkansas is set for a front rank place in this latest assault on the state's ancient foe. Informal sources predict that by 1941, or at least 1942, the Arkansas Engineer District, which reaches up into southern Missouri, but doesn't take in much of southern Arkansas, will be the liveliest scene of this campaign in the entire country.

It's an enormous undertaking. There's a thrill in the vast picture.

Vision the whole majestic sweep of it in your mind's eye—a scattering of dams thrown out along the silvery network of river systems that lace down over Arkansas and neighbor states, backing surplus water up into quiet lakes, where it will provide recreation and serve the beauty of the landscape, instead of rushing into the rivers and swelling them to destroying torrents.

Mark Twain ought to be alive, to exult, as he surely would, in that huge, audacious program.

Mark was a pilot on the Mississippi, and he wrote, you may recall, that the government engineers could never control that wild, lawless tide, of they had all the treasures of the earth at their backs.

Mark underestimated the army engineers. They're an extremely resourceful and unlickable outfit. They've gone far in curbing the furious onslaughts of the Mississippi, and in making it once more a tractable beast of burden to float boat-loads of goods to market.

To Carry Fight Farther.

Now the army engineers propose to carry the fight farther, and with impounding reservoirs, shut off the reinforcement of swollen tributary streams that may enable the Mississippi, the Arkansas, the White and our other main rivers to batter down restraining levees.

At the same time, the reservoirs on the tributaries are expected to make those often rampageous streams safe to live with.

Mark Twain would have gloried in a venture of such scope and daring. It would be pleasanter to read what he would have said about it than to own a purple cow with four red and yellow tails.

Work has begun on one of these

projects in Arkansas. This is the Nimrod dam and reservoir, on the Fourche La Fave river in Perry county, at a point some 60 miles upstream from where the Fourche spills into the Arkansas river.

State Highway No. 7 crosses the Fourche about a half mile below the dam site.

A crew of laborers is clearing land on the location, grubbing out stumps, putting up buildings needed in the construction, and has started excavating for the 97-foot-high and 986-foot long wall of concrete, which will swell the Fourche back of it into lake that will glisten the eye of any outdoor fan.

Contracts for the entire construction work on the Nimrod dam were let the latter part of March, to two firms, for a total of \$1,100,000.

The government is to furnish the cement, and will also design and buy gate machinery for the dams, the hoisting machinery, the penstocks, and some other items.

Penstocks are conduit arrangements for letting water out over turbine wheels, to develop hydro-electric power. Two of these will be installed in the dam, together with other facilities for future generation of electric current. For the present, the penstocks will be sealed with concrete.

But it is expected that some time, and possibly before a great while, hydro-electric equipment will be added to the Nimrod dam, and then the idle and often injurious Fourche will be converted to a useful career of lighting homes, toasting bread and spinning factory wheels.

Future Need of Current.

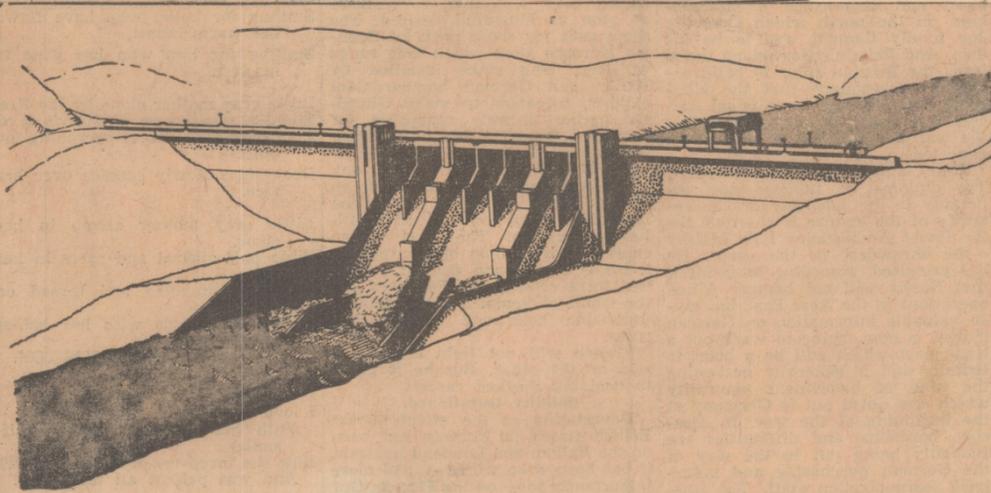
Informed men estimate that within the next 25 years, and perhaps sooner, Arkansas will need all the electric current that can be generated from its rivers. That's a cheering opinion on the state's outlook, from experts who have studied the situation, and are cautious in their opinions.

Work started on the Nimrod project April 25, in a small way. A ground-breaking ceremony and celebration is set for May 16, after which the job is scheduled to be stepped up. When it hits full stride, a force of several hundred men will be employed by the two contractors, it is estimated.

The amount of employment will depend on how fast the contractors push the work along, an engineer said. They have 700 days in which to finish the job, but its completion is predicted sooner.

Don't get the idea that the dam will be just a simple concrete wall, with some holes to let the water through. It's designed on a pretty elaborate scale.

Two galleries will run through it, at different heights, one for inspection, and the other for operating



Army Engineers' drawing of Nimrod dam on Fourche La Fave river, now under construction. This dam will be one of about 20 planned for flood control on the Arkansas river system. A similar program is contemplated for other river systems crossing the state.

uses. Then there will be the spillway, the gates to let water out of the reservoir, two operating houses, the machinery for opening and closing the gates, and various other fixtures.

A bridge over the 198-foot spillway will provide a roadway 22 feet wide crossing the Fourche valley.

The total cost of the job, including about \$650,000 for land, is figured at around four million dollars. Land purchases involve some 300 tracts, adding up to about 27,000 acres. Options have been taken on probably one-fourth of the acreage.

Back of the dam will be a permanent lake of 3,600 acres, which will expand to over 18,000 acres when and if the lake is filled. The length of this reservoir will be around 25 miles, with an average width of a little over a mile.

The dam is designed for an ultimate storage of 27,000 acres of water, which would back the lake up the valley 28 miles. But that is in the future, for the time when the dam is finished off for generating hydro-electric power.

To Meet All Demands.

Nimrod dam is designed to take care of the greatest flood ever recorded for the Fourche La Fave, and the army engineers say it will give flood protection for a distance of 60 miles below the structure.

It cannot, of course, take care of water which backs up into the Fourche from an overflow of the Arkansas.

But that's where the whole broad scattering of dams throughout the Arkansas river system is expected to get in its flood preventive effects. About 20 dams are planned at various points on the system, and when provided, the belief is that they will tame the Arkansas at its rip-roaring worst down to a size the levees can hold.

That array of dams would also aid in making the Arkansas navigable for boats, it is pointed out. As one engineer explained the matter, the dams would reduce the floods which cut out and destroy the river channel, and would provide water to be let into the Arkansas from the reservoirs when the flow is reduced by dry weather.

The same benefits to navigation are seen from the dams projected for the White river system.

A few critics of the reservoir plan have argued that the rise and fall of the water in them would leave baked and cracked mud flats around the edges, making them unsightly and spoiling them for recreational purposes.

But that won't happen, according to an army engineer. He said that the water in the reservoirs usually will be raised only a few feet by a freshet, and the rise will run out in a short time, not remaining long enough to kill vegetation and create mud.

Other Dams.

Other dams on the river systems of Arkansas and its neighbor states will follow in a general way the plan of the Nimrod dam. Some may be designed for future hydro-electric use, and some will not be.

Here is the present status of this

vast enterprise in the Arkansas district.

Besides the Nimrod dam on the Fourche La Fave, construction money has been allotted for these further jobs, to the amounts given.

For the Blue Mountain dam and reservoir, across the Petit Jean river, four miles southeast of the village of Blue Mountain, in Yell county, \$922,000.

For the Norfolk dam and reservoir, on the North Fork river, a tributary of the White, near Mountain Home, in Baxter county, \$404,000.

For the Clearwater dam and reservoir, across the Black river, in southeast Missouri, \$727,000.

Then money has been allotted for detailed surveys and project reports on four other contemplated dams and reservoirs, as follows:

Greer's Ferry, on the Little Red river, a tributary of the White, at Heber Springs, \$80,000;

Lone Rock, on the Buffalo river, a tributary of the White, in Searcy and Marion counties, \$102,000;

Bell Foley, on the Strawberry river, a tributary of the Black, east of Evening Shade, \$68,000;

Water Valley, in Eleven Point river, a tributary of the Black, above Pochontas, \$59,000.

On the Blue Mountain job, labor hired by the government has been exploring for a dam foundation and quarry site, and putting up office buildings. Bids for launching the construction are to be opened at the Little Rock office of the army engineers, May 28.

The Blue Mountain dam is to be of earth, with a maximum height of 115 feet, and a length of 2,700 feet on top. It will form a lake of 11,000 acres when full, but most of the water will be released as quickly as possible without overflowing the river below the dam.

Norfolk Project.

The Norfolk project is still in the project stage. Engineers are searching for the best site, and doing some other preliminary work. Blue prints are not expected to be finished in detail until some time in the fall—an important reason being that it isn't known yet whether the dam will be only for flood control, or will also provide for hydro-electric power.

That question is now before Congress, where Representative Clyde Ellis is striving to get power features made a part of the dam. This requirement has been incorporated in an omnibus flood bill, together with authorizing of an additional appropriation for the Bell Foley dam, on the Strawberry river, in Representative Wilbur Mill's district.

But if the bill becomes law, the money will still have to be voted by Congress. So the outlook for this measure seems to be highly uncertain.

The Clearwater dam and reservoir, while in Missouri, 43 miles north of the Arkansas line, is expected to extend flood-control benefits down the Black river into Arkansas.

A contract for this dam has been let, and work will probably begin about May 25. It will be of earth construction.

How rapidly the far-flung system of dams on the rivers coursing through Arkansas are built, depends on how fast Congress provides the money.

Meanwhile the army engineers in the Little Rock office are following up several years of work on the whole undertaking with detailed studies.

A whale of a lot of head-work and exploring of the location goes into one of these dams. As an engineer expressed it, "The dam is built a hundred times before a spoonful of earth is moved."

First, the ground is mapped by aerial methods.

Then, from the map, 15 or 20 possible sites for a dam are selected. Field surveys reduce this number to perhaps a half dozen, which are "cored," by drilling deep into the rock, to find a satisfactory foundation.

After the best place is found, the engineers go into the question of what material for construction, and what type of construction, will answer the purpose most fully and economically.

Out of all that work comes the approved design—the blue prints for the builder who bids lowest.

It is a pleasant subject to think about. When this war against General Flood and his destructiveness is won, Arkansas will have made a long stride toward solid prosperity.

For, with farming in the bottom lands safe from river-inroads, we can build there, on our richest soil, in assurance, the diversified, livestock agriculture that is now hampered by flood hazards. That will mean much to the progress and well-being of the entire state.

Survey Begun for Dam North Of Waldron.

Special to the Gazette.

Waldron, May 15.—Work was begun yesterday on the survey of a proposed dam on Square Rock creek, five miles north of Waldron on U. S. Highway 71, to furnish water for Waldron. Arrangements were made by the City Council with L. B. Bryant, Fort Smith, and E. W. Gilliam, Waldron, to make the survey and prepare data for submission to the WPA. The dam would provide 1,250-acre feet of water which would cover 100 acres at a depth of 12 feet, Mr. Gilliam said.

Water Flow In Southwest Discussed

3-19-40 GAZETTE

Objectives and methods involved in the investigation of water flow problems of the Southwest Mississippi basin which is being conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture were discussed at a meeting of representatives of state and federal agencies held yesterday at the Albert Pike hotel.

The study is a part of an extensive program of water conservation, drainage and flood control which is being carried out by state and federal agencies in co-operation with the National Resources Planning Board. Earl O. Mills of St. Louis, councillor of the board, was chairman at yesterday's meeting.

Federal and state officials from Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and Washington, D. C., attended the session. Their discussion dealt with investigational projects now under way; no construction projects were reviewed. A study of the upper St. Francis river basin recently was completed, and organization work for a study of the north fork of the White river is under way.

A survey of the program prepared by soil conservation and flood control agencies was discussed in detail.

Many Agencies Represented.

Attending the meeting were: Francis R. Kenney, executive officer of the Mississippi Backwater Areas Study, Department of Agriculture, Washington.

C. Morrison Stephens, Division of Water Resources, state of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.

H. J. Darcy, state engineer, Oklahoma City.

Robert H. Dott, state geologist, Oklahoma City.

Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, Little Rock.

Dean W. Blackburn, senior agricultural economist, Land Use Program, Vicksburg, Miss.

C. S. Christian, engineer state Flood Control Commission, Little Rock.

Julius T. Wenzel, in charge of interdepartmental co-ordination, Office of Land Use Program, Washington.

William Anderson, Missouri State Planning Board, Jefferson City.

F. L. McDonald, Arkansas Board of Health, Little Rock.

J. L. Saunders, U. S. Geological Survey, Fort Smith.

Jesse H. Zabriskie, Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth.

John M. Henderson, Bayou Meto District, DeWitt.

Ernest Boyce, Kansas State Board of Health, Lawrence, Kan.

Ogden S. Jones, Kansas State Board of Health, Lawrence, Kan.

Phil H. Bryan, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Russellville.

C. F. Olsen, Southern Forestry Experiment Station, New Orleans.

Donald F. Wolbrink, National Park Service, Omaha.

A. C. Monahan, in charge of Indian Affairs in Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.

John L. Mutz, associate engineer, Indian Service, Oklahoma City.

Curtis A. Allin, U. S. Home Management Agent of Biological Survey, Jefferson City.

E. A. Mayes, Missouri Conservation Commission, Jefferson City.

W. H. Hamilton, Federal Power Commission, Denver, Col.

C. J. Wilhelm, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Bartlesville, Okla.

H. N. Smith, chief of Project Plans Division, Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth.

Howard Matson, chief regional engineer, Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth.

Nathaniel A. K., U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington.

James W. Browning, agricultural economist, Little Rock.

Print Hudson, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Little Rock.

W. W. Horner, Water Conservation Division, National Resources Planning Board, St. Louis.

J. W. Tarrant, regional officer National Resources Planning Board, Dallas.

Harry A. Montgomery, U. S. Engineers, Tulsa.

W. W. Wanamaker, U. S. Engineers, Little Rock.

Speakers Tell Of Nimrod Dam Benefits

5-17-40

By CLOVIS COPELAND.

(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)
Nimrod, May 16.—Construction work on Nimrod dam, the first step in a plan to conserve water resources of the state and reduce or eliminate effects of floods started today as several hundred persons participated in a celebration of the event.

All preliminary work, including core drillings, foundation explorations and clearing of the land, have been completed. Excavation work has been started.

The dam site is located four miles west of Nimrod and seven miles south of Ola, at the intersection of U. S. Highway 60 and State Highway 7, in the Ouachita mountains. It is approximately 65 miles from Little Rock, in Perry county.

Speakers included Gov. Carl E. Bailey, Congressman D. D. Terry, Lamar Williamson, Monticello lawyer and member of the state Flood Control Commission; W. C. McClure, secretary of the Camden Chamber of Commerce and of the Southwest Valleys Association; R. E. Overman of Little Rock, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission and of the Southwest Valleys Association; Col. Eugene Reybold, engineer for the Southwestern Division, United States engineers, and Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, engineer for the Little Rock district, who will have direct charge of construction.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott Gives Facts About Dam.

The reservoir was authorized by Congress as a flood control structure. It can be converted into a dual purpose reservoir, Lieutenant Scott said. The district engineer explained that the dam will be approximately 1,000 feet long across the crest and about 100 feet above the stream bed. A spillway will be located about the middle of the dam. Conduits will discharge the stream flow under normal conditions. Penstocks will be installed for future power development.

Until the power possibilities of the structure are developed, the reservoir will have a conservation or permanent pool with a capacity of 30,000 acre-feet, covering 3,600 acres. Flood control capacity of the unit will be 305,000 acre-feet.

Installation of gates along the spillway, construction of a powerhouse and addition of power machinery are all that will be necessary to develop the hydroelectric possibilities, the engineer said.

The Fourche LaFave river, across which the dam will be constructed, is approximately 160 miles long and has a drainage area of 1,110 square miles. Run-off from the 680 square miles upstream from Nimrod dam will be controlled positively by the operation of the new dam.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott said the reservoir will control the experienced flows from more than 60 per cent of the entire drainage area of the Fourche LaFave river.

Operation of the dam will provide a high degree of flood protection from headwater flows to approximately 35,000 acres in the Fourche LaFave bottoms. It will prevent direct flood losses, enhance value of the land protected, and improve living conditions generally throughout the lower valley, it was pointed out.

Operation of the reservoir will reduce all floods to within channel capacity between the dam and the mouth of South Fourche LaFave river. Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott said that while most moderate floods can be controlled before the mouth of the Fourche, "I cannot state that complete protection from major floods is provided."

He explained that if the reservoir had been in operation during the great flood of April, 1927, the period of flooding from the mouth of South Fourche to the Arkansas river would have been reduced from seven to two days.

Operation during more recent floods in May, 1935, and February, 1938, would have shortened flood periods to three days to less than one day in the Fourche. Maximum flow in all years would have been 30 to 50 per cent smaller than the actual experienced flow, he explained. This would have caused only minor damage in the area, surveys showed.

Construction of a large permanent pool, such as the reservoir will be, will be of great advantages to the residents in the vicinity, he said.

Important to Arkansas, Says Colonel Reybold.

BIG ENTERPRISE STARTED



The picture shows the site of Nimrod dam on the Fourche LaFave river in Perry county, near Ola. This picture was taken from the top of the foundation test pit on the north side, looking south. The river, at the bottom of the deep ravine shown in the picture, cannot be seen.



This shows a group of engineers, members of the Flood Control Commission and others looking over the dam site of Nimrod dam and reservoir project yesterday. They are, left to right: J. M. Sanders of Ola, State Senator Luke Arnett of Paris, G. B. Colvin of Perry, W. C. McClure of Camden, Lamar Williamson of Monticello, Chancellor J. E. Chambers of Danville, former Mayor R. E. Overman of Little Rock, Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott of the Little Rock District, U. S. Engineers; Col. Eugene Reybold of the Southwestern Division, John P. Morrow of Batesville, Congressman D. D. Terry, Maj. T. F. Kern of the engineers, Charles S. Christian, chief engineer for the Flood Control Commission, and W. W. Mitchell, state highway director.

Colonel Reybold said the start of construction represented the launching of a "most important step to Arkansas." The dam and reservoir may be completed by May 1, 1942. He praised work of interested Arkansas residents who aided in obtaining appropriations for the vast flood control program, which may represent an expenditure of \$26,000,000 when completed.

Up to the People, Says Governor Bailey.

Governor Bailey said it was the duty of officials to educate the residents on all proposals and then let them decide whether they want the improvements or innovations. He said the state had complied with all requirements of the federal government necessary to take advantage of government offers for aid in new projects.

Congressman Terry Recalls His Efforts.

Congressman Terry said that he first spoke of possibility of flood control for the Fourche LaFave river section in his campaign for Congress in 1933. He said that work on the Blue Mountain dam and reservoir on Petit Jean river, another tributary of the Arkansas, probably will start in a month.

Start of Organized Effort Recalled.

Mr. McClure told of the organization of flood control movement in the state, in the office of Mayor Overman in Little Rock in July, 1935, by a group of planters whose crops had been "washed out" for the second straight month by overflows. He read the names of the donors of \$256 which

was used to finance the first campaign for flood control in Arkansas. Mr. Williamson called water the most constructive force on earth, but at times, the most destructive.

G. B. Colvin, lawyer and Perry county chairman of the Southwest Valleys unit, gave the address of welcome. Members of the Flood Control Commission were introduced.

Nimrod Dam Will Benefit 60-Mile Area

5-19-40

The Nimrod dam on the Fourche LaFave river in Perry county will alleviate flood dangers approximately 50 river miles below the dam site and improve fertility of the soil immeasurably, Capt. Lee Washburn, executive officer of Little Rock District U. S. Engineers, told members of the Little Rock Engineers Club at the Frederica hotel yesterday.

Land valued at approximately \$650,000 will be inundated by the reservoir, and some 900 landowners will be effected, he said. The dam, authorized under the 1938 flood control act, is one of several to be constructed in Arkansas within the next few years. Approximately 305,000 acre feet of water can be stored in the reservoir without exerting undue pressure on the structure, Capt. Washburn said.

Eight and one-half inches of rainfall would bring the reservoir to the 305,000-acre-foot stage. Maximum capacity is 355,000 acre feet. During the

1927 flood which caused considerable damage in the area, eight and one half inches of rainfall was recorded, he said.

77-Mile Shoreline.

At a normal stage, the shoreline would be 77 miles. At high stage it would be approximately 124 miles. The dam could easily be changed to serve a dual purpose. Penstocks suitable for installation of power units will be provided, and the base of the dam is thick enough for installation of power equipment should it become practical. Electrical power is not needed in the area at the present time and would bring a poor return on the investment, he said.

Highway No. 7 is only a few hundred yards from the dam site, and a road is being built which will cross the dam and connect with the highway, he said.

Government Takes 251 Acres in Reservoir Area.

Possession of 251.3 acres in the Danville district of Yell county was granted the United States by Federal Judge Trimble yesterday, in a condemnation suit brought against the land, Roy J. Scott, and other owners, in connection with starting the \$5,000,000 Blue Mountain flood control project on the Petit Jean river. Additional condemnations are expected.

A certificate of funds available was filed by Col. S. L. Scott, Little Rock district engineer.

Bids on the construction of an outlet conduit to be tunneled through the right abutment of the future reservoir will be opened May 28. The tunnel, which will be circular, 1,019 feet long and 20 feet wide, will be built one and one-half miles west of Waveland. To date \$400,000 has been allotted for immediate work on the three-year project.

Northfork Dam Trenching Bids To Be Received Today.

Special to the Gazette. 5-27-40
Mountain Home, May 26.—Bids for the rental of trenching equipment to be used on the Northfork dam site, on the Northfork river 10 miles from here, will be received tomorrow and the actual trenching work is expected to start about June 15, officials of the United States Engineers office here have announced.

Trenches 800 to 900 feet long will be dug to bed rock along the axis line at the dam site to gather more information for design purposes.

The design drilling under way at the site for the past several months is expected to take about two months longer to complete.

Hydro-Electric Project Studied

DEMOCRAT 6-14-40

The State Flood Control Commission met at the capitol today to discuss the development of the Little Missouri river hydro-electric project near Murfreesboro, U. S. Army Engineers yesterday recommended construction of a flood control dam there to store 410,000-acre feet of water.

Work on Blue Mountain Dam to Begin

GAZETTE 6-22-40

Work on Blue Mountain dam and reservoir on Petit Jean river 45 miles southeast of Fort Smith, between Booneville and Danville will get under way today, Capt. D. W. Griffiths, in charge of the Operations Section of the Little Rock District, U. S. Engineers, announced yesterday.

Blue Mountain will be operated as a flood control reservoir and will be a unit in the flood control reservoir system on the tributaries of the Arkansas river. The drainage area above the dam site is about 500 square miles.

Details of Dam.
The dam will be a rolled-fill earth embankment. It will have a crest length of approximately 2,700 feet, a maximum height of 115 feet above the stream's bed and a maximum base of width of approximately 600 feet.

Outlet works for releasing impounded waters from the reservoir will consist of a conduit through the right abutment, with intake structure and control tower at the inlet end. Water will be discharged on the south into the valley of a creek which empties into the Petit Jean a short distance below the dam.

The spillway will be in a natural low saddle in the left abutment about 1,100 feet downstream from the dam axis. Engineers say that water will discharge over the spillway only in case of a great flood or sequence of floods.

The reservoir will have a total storage capacity of 258,000 acre-feet at spillway crest level. A permanent conservation pool will contain 25,000 acre-feet.

Storage space for flood control will be used only in times of flood, and stored water will be released as soon as possible without overflowing river banks below the dam.

The project is scheduled to be completed in three years at a cost of approximately \$5,000,000.

Rigs to Be Moved.
Core drilling rigs which have been engaged in foundation exploration work at Blue Mountain will be transferred to the Clearwater Dam and Reservoir project, near Piedmont, Mo., for use in core-drilling tests in the spillways.

Two drill rigs will be removed from service today.

John Kerns of the Kerns Construction Company, contractor on the dam, will confer with Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer, in the Little Rock District Office Monday.

Petit Jean Dam Will Be Begun July 10

GAZETTE 6-25-40

Construction of the outlet works of the Blue Mountain dam and reservoir project on Petit Jean river in Yell and Logan counties will start July 10, it was decided at a conference between officers of the Little Rock District, U. S. Engineers and the Kern Construction Co., of Omaha, Neb., contractors.

Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer; Capt. D. W. Griffiths, operations officer, and Harrison B. Pitman, principal civilian engineer, represented the Little Rock District office. John Kern and J. N. Ball represented the contractors.

Outlet works for releasing impounded waters from the reservoir, will consist of a conduit through the right abutment, with intake structure and a control tower at the inlet and stilling basin at the outlet.

The tunnel will be 20 feet in inside diameter and 1,019 feet long. Cost of the work will be approximately \$500,000, and is scheduled to be completed by September 1, 1940. The dam will be located in the western edge of Yell county. Part of the reservoir will be in Logan county.

Flood Control Job Goes to Memphis Firm.

GAZETTE 6-27-40

Memphis, Tenn., June 26 (AP).—The Associated General Contractors, Flood Control Division, reported today that their \$5,158,157.50 bid was the lower of two bids to build the Arkabutla flood control dam 20 miles south of here in north Mississippi.

Three companies composing the firm are H. N. Rodgers & Son Co. of Memphis, Forcum-James Company of Memphis and Dyersburg, Tenn., and Pioneer Contracting Company of Dyersburg.

Bids were opened yesterday by United States engineers at Vicksburg, Miss.

The dam will be on the Coldwater river. It will be of earth, about 10,000 feet long with an average height of 65 feet above the valley floor. Across the top it will be 40 feet wide. The reservoir will be in Pate and DeSoto counties. The contract will call for completion in 800 days.

Five Million Allotted for Arkansas Dams

DEMOCRAT 6-27-40

Funds for Nimrod, Northfork and Clearwater Projects Included.

Allotments of \$5,494,000 for flood control expenditures in the Little Rock Engineer district during the coming fiscal year were received today by Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer. The allotments were received from the office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington and are for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The funds allotted to the district are for continued construction on two dams, for completion of design and beginning of construction on a third and for other design, examinations and surveys.

Work has been started on the Nimrod dam on Fourche la Fave river, in Perry county, and on the outlet works of the Clearwater dam, on Black river, north of Poplar Bluff, Mo., while a contract has been let for beginning construction of the outlet works of the Blue Mountain dam, on Petit Jean river, in Yell county.

The allotments follow: For continued construction of the Nimrod dam, \$1,500,000; for continued construction of the Clearwater dam, \$2,000,000; for completion of design and beginning of construction of the Northfork dam, on North Fork of White river, in Baxter county, \$1,450,000; for design of selected reservoirs in the White river basin, \$250,000, and for preliminary examinations and surveys, \$294,000.

Funds for maintenance of existing works probably will be allotted soon.

Conservation District Has Aided Farmer

6-30-40

Special to the Gazette.
Pocahontas, June 29.—The phenomenal success of the Tri-River Soil Conservation District of Pocahontas is attributed to the work done by rural community leaders and co-operation of the farmers of the district, it was said by Dr. F. W. Cox of Pocahontas, chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

The fact that farmers can organize themselves for the mutual benefit of all is being demonstrated successfully in the district. In only two years the number of co-operators has grown from a mere handful to more than 800 farmers owning 200,000 acres of hill land in Randolph and western Lawrence counties. The farmers of this section formed the district by

an overwhelming majority vote of the landowners, and elected as their first officers Dr. Cox, J. F. Sloan of Black Rock, J. B. Weaver of Maynard, R. S. Rainwater of Imboden and J. D. Wells of Eleven Point.

Various Agencies Assist.

The district was formed under Act 197 of the 1937 General Assembly, and was empowered to enter into contracts with the state and federal agencies for assistance in carrying out a program of erosion control and better land use on the 2,000 farms comprising 365,000 acres in the district.

Agencies aiding the district are the United States Soil Conservation Service, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the state Extension Service. All have contributed valuable services in technical planning, farmer education and labor, but the development of community planning along with group action by farmers is placing the work on a much higher level in this district than is reached in most places, it was pointed out.

The work of directing farm community meetings and discussing with the farmers the needs of their farms is being done by the local rural leader of the community, thereby freeing the district technicians for the work of planning and directing the soil and moisture conservation work on the farms.

Farmers meet in each community and plan the work to be done on the farms in that center, and in many cases the farmers have traded work using several teams and tractors on one farm, thereby obtaining more CCC labor and getting the work done faster.

Flood Control Plank Sought By Proponents

Democrat—6-7-40
Overman on Committee to Present Plan to Democrats.

R. E. Overman, chairman of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, has been appointed a member of a committee to appear before the resolutions committee at the Democratic national convention in Chicago July 15, to seek inclusion of a platform plank advocating continued improvement of rivers and harbors. The appointment was made by Congressman Dewey Short of Missouri, president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

Calling attention to the large amount of work done in the Little Rock engineer district under direction of Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, district engineer, Mr. Overman said all interested persons must "keep eternally on the job" to obtain completion of the present flood control program.

"There is no more important development in Arkansas that can be hoped for than its water resources program. Work is under way on three dams and reservoirs and much other preliminary work is under way by army engineers," Mr. Overman said.

"There is a migration of industry to the Tennessee valley because of development of its rivers together with the desire to operate in the interior of the country. National defense means more than soldiers, guns, airplanes and battleships. It also means manpower and production," he said, adding that industry will be located where it has the necessary facilities.

Proposed Plank.

The proposed plank, suggested by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, follows:

"We advocate the continued improvement of the nation's rivers and harbors for national defense and commerce, and the orderly development and conservation of the nation's soil and water resources for purposes of navigation, flood control and flood prevention for the protection of human life and property, the prevention of soil and shore erosion and water pollution, reclamation, irrigation, water power, reforestation and increased recreational facilities, believing that these permanent and useful projects will contribute materially to the progress and advancement of the nation. We favor adequate annual appropriations to carry these improvements to completion to the end that agriculture and industry may enjoy their benefits at the earliest possible date."

Point Remove Flood Control Finds Favor

7-7-40

A "partially favorable" report on proposed flood control improvements for Point Remove creek, lying mostly

in Conway county, a tributary to the Arkansas river above Cadron creek, has been filed with the War Department by Col. E. Reybold, division engineer of the Corps of Engineers.

Recommendation for construction of a cut-off and for clearing of the channel in the lower reaches of the stream was made, provided local interests will furnish right-of-way, guarantee that the government be free of damages incident to construction, pay for construction of a bridge on the former right-of-way on U. S. Highway No. 64 and maintain and operate the project after completion.

Limitation of improvement work to partial improvement is due to the

unequal balance between cost of complete flood control protection and the probable benefits to be derived by agricultural interests from that improvement, the report said.

Northfork Dam Trench Nearly Ready

7-26-40

Special to the Gazette.

Mountain Home, July 25.—Trenching work on the Northfork dam site, started several weeks

ago, will be completed in about two weeks. The work will consist of about 600 feet of trench, 100 feet in width, which slopes to a center 10 feet wide in the bottom to solid rock.

Other work includes sampling and testing sand and gravel at points adjacent to the site, from which the material can be handled economically when actual construction work begins. The crew now is working a gravel bar at the mouth of the river, 4 1-2 miles below the site.

A housing site of 10 acres is being staked out at Mountain Home. The town will build a street to the site and lay water lines. Construction of about 35 homes will start in two or three weeks.

Buffalo River Sites Studied.
Work also is in progress on the Lone Rock, or Buffalo river, project. Geologists have selected a new site on Buffalo river, known as Site No. 2, and a drill was moved there this week. Site No. 2 is about six miles above the mouth of the river, in Marion county. Final decision on a site has not been made.

Surveys for a highway and a railroad leading from Norfolk, on the White River division of the Missouri Pacific to the Northfork dam site have been completed, and it is expected that work on both of these projects will start within a few months.

More than 100 men are at work on the Northfork project.

Commission Proposes Flood Plan

8-8-40

Construction of a proposed dam for hydro-electric power purposes on the Little Missouri river "Narrows," eight miles north of Murrefreesboro, will be recommended to congressmen and the National Defense Council by the Arkansas Flood Control Commission through C. S. Christian, commission engineer, who will go to Washington the latter part of the week.

Obtaining power projects for developing the state's mineral resources will be the major part of the commission's 1940-41 program, Mr. Christian said. The Little Missouri location is near Cinnabar and Bauxite mines. Saline and Pulaski county bauxite deposits provide 90 per cent of the aluminum produced in the United States.

Mr. Christian said the chief of the army engineers has recommended improvements in the Little Missouri watershed to the secretary of War.

Other objectives for the ensuing year, proposed by the commission at Batesville Friday, include channel improvement on the Arkansas, Ouachita, White and Little Missouri rivers, and the start of navigation on the Arkansas and White.

Appraisals Being Made On Northfork Dam Property.

8-9-40

Special to the Gazette.

Mountain Home, Aug. 8.—A crew of 10 men has set up offices here and will appraise property to be bought by the government in connection with building of the Northfork dam. The land appraisals are expected to require about a year.

Construction will be started soon on an office building and garage at the site for United States engineers working on the project.

White River Development Approved

8-8-40 8-17-40

Washington, Aug. 16 (AP).—Representative Ellis (Dem., Ark.) disclosed today that President Roosevelt had approved a recommendation by the War Department for development of the White river in Arkansas. He said the report probably would reach Congress Monday or Tuesday.

Ellis was permitted to review the report only confidentially, he said, and he declined to discuss its contents. He said "I am very happy about the recommendations it contains."

The report deals specifically with the proposed Bull Shoals and Table Rock dam-reservoirs in Arkansas and Missouri on the main stem of the White. Ellis is an exponent of public power development, and his enthusiasm for the report indicated hydroelectric facilities were recommended for the dams.

Surveys Said to Show Need Of White River Development.

Army engineers have described the White river in north Arkansas and southern Missouri as equivalent in importance to the Tennessee river at Muscle Shoals. Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, told a meeting of the National Defense Committee of the state Planning Board yesterday. He quoted a report as saying three power surveys had shown that natural population increases and the industrial development in the territory would absorb the power capacity of 260,000 kilowatts at two proposed dams.

He said Maj. W. W. Wanamaker, assistant to the chief engineer of the Southwestern division, United States Army Corps of Engineers, had told a meeting at Dallas recently that proposed dams at Bull Shoals, near Cotter, and Table Rock in Missouri were the "key to the development of the entire area."

Power for Cinnabar Area.

R. J. Bemish, of Washington, engineer for the Rural Electrification Administration, said the REA was considering the construction of a 45-mile line into the cinnabar area in southwest Arkansas. He made a trip to the area Thursday with Thomas Fitzhugh, chairman of the state Utilities Commission; H. K. Thatcher, executive director of the Agricultural and Industrial Commission, and Dr. Branner.

He said he was "amazed at the undeveloped resources" in Arkansas and the South and the REA would co-operate with the state in extending power facilities to undeveloped areas.

The Executive Committee of the Planning Board will name a delegate to a Midwest Defense Conference at Kansas City August 30 but Chairman James H. Penick said the state had no money to finance the trip.

POWER PROJECTS ON WHITE RIVER RECOMMENDED

War Department In Support of \$79,000,000 Plan.

Gazette 8-20-40

A \$79,000,000 development of the White river basin, with dams and reservoirs to produce vast quantities of electric power and protect 28,000 square miles from floods, was recommended by the War Department to Congress yesterday.

Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott of Little Rock, acting division director of United States Army Engineers, said the proposed dual dams would "be the hub around which the future prosperity of Arkansas" would turn.

R. E. Overman, chairman of the state Flood Control Commission, said the projects would mean "the emancipation of Arkansas."

The program would provide:

1. Construction of a 40,000-acre reservoir at Wildcat Shoals in Baxter county and a dam 223 feet high and 2,235 feet long at Bull Shoals, 12 miles distant. It would have a total power installation of 140,000 kilowatts, with an initial installation of 105,000 kilowatts. The first cost would be \$42,000,000.
 2. Construction of a 30,000-acre reservoir and a dam 206 feet high and 4,600 feet long at Table Rock, also on the White river in southwestern Missouri. Its total power installation would be 120,000 kilowatts, with an initial installation of 80,000 kilowatts. The cost would be \$37,000,000.
- These projects would be in addition to six reservoirs already authorized by Congress, but would be almost equal in flood control capacity to all of the other six combined.

Immediate Appropriation For Work to Be Asked.

"Bull Shoals and Table Rock would be the key to the entire development," Colonel Scott said when informed by the United States army chief of engineers that the report and recommendations had been submitted to Congress.

The report was compiled by Colonel Scott in December, 1939. Its approval by the division engineers, the Board of Engineers at Washington and the War Department was followed by a personal conveyance of the document to President Roosevelt and the House by Congressman Clyde T. Ellis of Bentonville, who has sponsored the project for years.

"This is the greatest thing that has happened to my part of the country," Congressman Ellis said at Washington. "Of course, it is just the beginning, but we have had to go about this thing in a practical way. We are at last on the way."

Congressman Ellis said he and other members of the Arkansas delegation will urge the National Defense Advisory Commission to recommend immediate appropriations to start work. Otherwise, he pointed out, money to start construction might not be available until the next Congress convenes.

Prime Power Output Of 344,000,000 Kilowatts.

Major aspects of the proposal are:

1. The government financed and

regulated power plants would produce an initial annual output of 619,000,000 kilowatt hours, of which 344,000,000 would be prime power. The latter is power which can be depended upon at all seasons.

2. The huge reservoirs would control flood waters from the Ozark plateaus to the Mississippi river lowlands. The flood control capacity would be equivalent to 8.4 inches of runoff from the basin, and sufficient to have held nearly the entire flow of the White river at Bull Shoals during the 1927 flood.

Here is how the floods would be controlled:

During major storms, tributary reservoirs would be operated so as not to increase the peak flows from unreservoired areas. The Table Rock and Bull Shoals dams would hold back the flow from the main stem of the upper White river until the flood crest had passed Newport, or some other point on the lower White.

Army Engineers' Chief Writes Endorsement.

After studying Colonel Scott's report, Maj. Gen. J. L. Schley, chief of Army Engineers, endorsed the project in the name of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors.

"The board concurs in general with the district and division engineers' report," he wrote. "The Wildcat Shoals reservoir, with a dam at Bull Shoals, and the Table Rock reservoir will be of great benefit to farming and industry in the basin. Their construction is justified economically and should be undertaken primarily for protection of fertile lands of the White and Mississippi rivers from floods, and as a step toward the comprehensive development of water resources of the White river basin."

General Schley explained that the Arkansas dam site had been moved from Wildcat Shoals to Bull Shoals because of a better rock foundation for the high dam.

"The board is of the opinion that Bull Shoals and Table Rock reservoirs and the six reservoirs authorized by Congress in 1938, which include Lone Rock and Norfolk (on the Buffalo river and North Fork, respectively), should all be contained in the comprehensive plan," he said.

"The first consideration should be given to provision of approximately 3,000,000-acre feet of flood storage. The greatest benefits at Bull Shoals and Table Rock would be obtained by varying the storage used for power and flood control during the growth of power markets, and gradually replacing part of the flood storage originally provided at these sites by the development of other reservoirs included in the plan."

The board recommended construction "for control of floods, the development of hydro-electric power and for other beneficial uses."

Approval Given by FPC And Resources Board.

The Federal Power Commission followed with its approval:

"Power that could be produced could be absorbed by expanding power markets of the region in a reasonable period. Both projects are desirable and economically feasible."

The National Resources Planning Board added that the program is "highly meritorious."

All of the investigating agencies inferred their belief in an early expansion of industry in the White river valley. They agreed that power developed there could be sold readily, although they said the output of energy should be increased by steps as the demand required.

The report said it was advisable to construct and operate transmission lines, substations and other facilities as necessary for the sale of power, thus placing the White river development upon a plane similar in many respects to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"Having in mind the ultimate operation of power plants in coordination with the system of de-

velopments, I believe that provision should be made for the total installation of 140,000 kilowatts at Table Rock and 190,000 kilowatts at Bull Shoals," General Schley wrote.

"In order to safeguard the interests of navigation and flood control, the dams and power facilities should be constructed under direction of the secretary of war and under supervision of the chief engineers, the power to be disposed of under contracts approved by the Federal Power Commission.

Millions Will Be Needed for Projects.

The millions would be poured into the projects as follows:

Dam and reservoir, Table Rock, \$24,400,000; Bull Shoals, \$28,963,000. Power house and equipment, Table Rock, \$6,700,000; Bull Shoals, \$6,650,000.

Power transmission facilities, Table Rock, \$3,400,000; Bull Shoals, \$4,387,000.

Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Robins, senior member of the Corps of Engineers, in a recommendation to the chief of engineers estimated that the value of power to be produced at the two plants would be about \$1,415,600 at Table Rock and \$1,403,400 at Bull Shoals.

"The best market for the power is believed to be in Arkansas and southwest Missouri," he said, "where estimates indicate that by 1950 the requirements will increase from the present 753,000,000 kilowatt hours to 1,720,000,000 kilowatt hours annually.

"The district engineer believes that by the time Bull Shoals could be constructed, the market for the power would develop; that several years would elapse before the market would develop for power from both plants, but that both should be completed well in advance of power market requirements."

41 Arkansas Counties In Affected Watershed.

White river rises in the Boston mountains of Madison county and flows northeasterly 215 miles to the vicinity of Forsyth, Mo., then turns southeasterly 505 miles and returns to Arkansas. It crosses the state to join the Mississippi river 45 miles upstream from Arkansas City.

Its watershed includes all or part of 41 Arkansas counties and 21 in Missouri. The affected population is 2,400,000 persons, of whom 750,000 live in the watershed. Most residents engage in farming producing cotton, corn, hay, livestock, vegetables and fruits. Its natural resources include forest products, coal, manganese, glass sand, natural gas, clay, tripoli, lead and zinc.

Destructive floods occur frequently. There have been 79, six of them major, in the last 49 years at Newport. In the basin are 1,262,000 acres subject to inundation.

The Army Engineers said the fixed property valuation in the affected area is \$35,000,000, with annual crop values of about \$8,300,000. In the 1927 flood, it was pointed out, direct losses were placed at \$15,700,000, of which crop and other farm losses were \$12,400,000.

The direct flood losses for the basin under present conditions were estimated at \$2,543,000 a year, in addition to the loss of life and adverse effect on health and social security of the inhabitants "which can't be evaluated."

Benefits in Flood Protection Explained.

The proposed new reservoirs were planned to protect this great area. The flood storage space would be sufficient to reduce the maximum flood peak of 220,000 second-feet of water in 1927 at Bull Shoals to 108,900, the report said. The 1935 flood peak of 155,000 second-feet could be reduced to 10,000.

The effect at lock and dam No. 3, 20 miles above Batesville, it was explained, would be a reduction of 10 feet in the maximum flood levels.

Since the White river was termed a major contributor to Mississippi river floods, it was pointed out that the White discharged 440,000 cubic feet of water per second at the peak of the 1927 flood. That quantity of water, it was said, is equivalent to raising the Mississippi's level five feet at Arkansas City.

Colonel Scott then estimated that construction of the two reservoirs would result in the reduction of \$579,500 in flood damages along the White river and of \$1,200,000 along the Mississippi river, or a total saving of \$1,779,500.

Summing up his recommendations, Colonel Scott showed that his estimate of \$2,819,000 placed on the value of power production, and \$1,779,500 placed on the value of flood control, would amount to \$4,598,500. This value, he said, would

Good Weather Welcomed On Dam Job

Special to the Gazette. 10-26-41

Booneville, Oct. 25. — Rainy weather, the bane of all outdoor construction jobs, having played havoc all summer with construction schedules, the contractors on the Blue Mountain dam, located four miles southeast of Blue Mountain, are taking advantage of every bit of fair weather and are working their crews day and night.

The dam, a part of the vast flood control plans for the state, is being built by Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company. Its workers are building a diversion tunnel through the mountain, and intake and outlet works for the tunnel and stilling basin. Joe H. Weis, formerly with the Denison (Tex.) dam, is general superintendent.

The huge earthen dam and spillway, just north of the diversion tunnel, is under contract to Myers, Myers & Goen of Salem, Ind., with L. B. Light of Salem as general superintendent.

The dam and outlet works is located on Petit Jean river in Yell county, just across the Logan county line, while most of the lake formed by the dam will be located in the Booneville district of this county. The huge structure is about 37 miles from the Arkansas river, of which the Petit Jean is a tributary. The reservoir contemplated will function as a flood control pool by storing the excessive flow of water from the upper Petit Jean valley, and releasing it slowly. In addition to the flood control feature, provisions have been made for one of the largest recreational lakes in this section, where fishing, boating and swimming will be permitted.

Solid Rock Penetrated.

Driving a tunnel 25 feet in diameter through a mountain that was almost solid rock for a distance of 1,019 feet is one of the difficult feats of the construction at the dam. In addition to the thousands of yards of excavation necessary for the tunnel, 1,100,000 of reinforcing steel had to be placed, and tied in the circular tunnel, forms made of wood then placed, and thousands of yards of concrete pumped into the forms to complete the big job through the mountain. Other material necessary will be 10,000 pounds of copper water stop, 2,700 pounds of corrosion steel water stops, and 23,000 barrels of cement. When Uncle Sam builds something, he wants it substantial.

At the entrance to the conduit tunnel three tractor type service gates, each eight feet wide by 17 feet high and weighing 17 tons, will be set. A fourth gate of the same type will be set to act as an emergency closure. At present the huge gates are being assembled for placing as soon as work advances far enough.

The tunneling has been completed, most of the reinforcing steel placed, and much of the lower section of the concrete covering has been poured. The remainder of the concrete will be poured as fast as possible. The concrete is mixed outside the tunnel and is forced through pipes to the place in the tunnel, where the pouring is being done in the forms. The gate hoists, traveling crane, and standby power unit, which are a part of the tunnel entrance machinery, will be housed in an operating house some distance above the dam and upstream side of the tunnel.

Also a part of the Hartford contract is the construction of the outlet works and stilling basin at the downstream side of the tunnel. This stilling basin will have its floor at an elevation of 353 feet and training walls 27 feet high on both sides. Inside these walls will be two rows of six-foot concrete baffles and a three-foot end sill to provide for dissipation of energy and redistribution of the high velocity flow. An excavated outlet channel about 3,600 feet long will lead from the stilling basin to the main river channel about three-quarters of a mile downstream. With the reservoir full, the outlet works will be capable of discharging 12,250 cubic feet of water per second.

Huge Machinery Used.

It is estimated that 15 per cent of the dirt moving—300,000 yards—for the dam has been completed by Myers, Myers & Goen. On the earth-moving job alone there is over \$400,000 worth of machinery

and equipment and machinery of modern type and design. Fourteen Euclid trac-trucks, each moving 15 yards of dirt at a time, are a part of this equipment.

The spillway, also to be constructed by the Myers company, will be on the north side of the dam and will be excavated this winter, with the concrete pouring on the job scheduled for next spring.

In order that a 24-hour production schedule may be maintained, lights are placed in the tunnel and a system of flood lights makes night work on the dam proper almost as light as day.

The Kerns Company now has 287 men on the tunnel job, and Myers, Myers & Goen has 130 men on the dam construction. The entire job is estimated to cost \$5,000,000 and the time of construction three years.

Operations Of Grand River Dam Attacked

Gazette 11-5-41

Oklahoma's Grand river dam presents an Arkansas river flood threat that is as serious as if the dam did not exist, Chairman R. E. Overman of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission said yesterday.

Mr. Overman attributed a considerable part of Arkansas's present flood trouble to the fact that an Oklahoma state agency, rather than the federal government, operates the Grand river dam. The dam originally was designed to have 960,000-acre feet of flood storage. "The state agency, in its greed for selling power, confiscated three-fourths of the flood storage pool above the power pool," Mr. Overman charged.

The Southwest Valley Association, of which he is director general, will ask Congress to require the Grand River Dam Authority to acquire an additional "five feet." The height of the dam probably is sufficient, but more acreage is needed for right-of-way, so that the reservoir level could be increased, Mr. Overman said.

"Never trust a river until it is under control of the army engineers," the Arkansas chairman said. The S. V. A. favors operation by United States Engineers on 13 upstream reservoirs planned for the Arkansas and tributaries. Only three have been put to work—Nimrod on Fourche la Fave river, Perry and Yell counties; the Grand river dam and Fort Supply in Oklahoma.

Because of the defense program, flood control may be delayed, Mr. Overman said. Ten years might elapse before the reservoir plan is completely carried out.

At Governor Adkins' request, the Flood Control Commission employed Don McKenzie, former Ozark lawyer, as aide for levee work in Johnson county during the emergency, Mr. Overman said.

Commission Will Meet Here Friday.

The commission will meet here at 11 a. m. Friday to make plans for the United States Engineers' hearing on the proposed Water Valley dam, Eleven Point river, at Pochontas on December 10. J. F. Sloan of Black Rock and Dr. F. W. Cox of Pochontas have been invited by the commission.

Commission representatives may attend the National Rivers and Harbors Congress at Miami, Fla., November 13-14. Ex-Congressman W. J. Driver of Osceola is board chairman. Mr. Overman is a director.

Open Bids On Exploration Work at Dam

Gazette 11-6-41

Foundation exploration at the Bull Shoals dam site on the upper White river will begin soon, Lt. Col. T. F. Kern, Little Rock district engineer, United States Engineers, said yesterday following receipt of four bids on the work.

The apparent low bidders are: Core drilling, Pennsylvania Drilling Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., \$24,825, and trench test excavation,

Jones Core Drilling Company, of Dallas, Tex., \$11,250. The work will begin within 15 days after issuance of a notice to proceed after contracts are awarded, and is to be completed within 60 days.

The foundation exploration will consist of drilling about 6,700 feet of 2 1-3 inch holes, about 130 feet of 36-inch exploratory holes and excavating 7,500 cubic yards of test trenches.

Authorization for the work was received by the Little Rock district on instructions from the chief of engineers to make a definite project plan for the Bull Shoals dam and the Table Rock dam, three miles west of Branson, Mo. Both dams were authorized by Congress in the 1941 Flood Control Act as multiple-purpose projects for flood control, hydro-electric power, recreation and conservation.

The Bull Shoals dam site is in Marion and Baxter counties, about seven miles north of Cotter and near the Amos community.

Core Drilling Contract Let

Contract for final exploration, or core boring at the Bull Shoals dam site in Marion and Baxter counties was let yesterday by the United States Engineers to the Pennsylvania Drilling Company of Pittsburgh, Lt. Col. T. F. Kern, district engineer, announced yesterday. The contract price was \$24,825. Bids for the project were opened on November 5. Work will begin within 15 days from the date of issuance of a work order, probably about December 1.

Data on Proposed Blakely Dam To Be Prepared.

Gazette 11-13-41

Data on the proposed Blakely mountain dam, northwest of Hot Springs, will be prepared by a committee of the State Planning Board for submission at a public hearing to be held by the United States Engineers in Hot Springs, December 10.

The committee is composed of heads of departments interested in the project. They met yesterday in the governor's reception room. Governor Adkins asked the committee to prepare factual information on the feasibility of construction of the long-delayed dam.

J. J. Harrison, chairman of the State Planning Board, presided.

Hearing on Proposed Dam Set For December 12.

Special to the Gazette. 11-18-41

Hot Springs, Nov. 17.—In order not to conflict with a meeting in Little Rock December 10, the meeting here of Arkansas residents along the Ouachita river and United States army engineers has been postponed until December 12, Lt. Col. S. D. Sturgis Jr., announced today.

The hearing will be held to determine the advisability of undertaking the construction of the dam as a federal flood-control project.

Progress Made On Three Dams

Special to the Gazette. 11-30-41

Mountain Home, Nov. 29.—United States engineers are at work on the Bull Shoals and Table Rock multiple dam projects on White river and on the James, a tributary of the White, near Galena, Mo. A large party of surveyors is also at work above the Bull Shoals project in Arkansas, compiling figures for a comprehensive development of the entire watershed of the upper river. The Bull Shoals dam project is located 16 miles, by river, above Cotter, Ark. The Table Rock project is located about five miles above Branson and Hollister, Mo., in Taney county.

Two core drills are now in operation, one at the Table Rock site and the other on the James river near Galena, Mo. These operations are exploratory operations in testing foundations. The site of the Table Rock dam will not be determined until found action tests have been completed.

Office Built.

A large frame building has been completed on the Clyde Bryant farm, site of the Bull Shoals project, which will be used as an office, and for the storage of drill cores. A contract was let this month to the Pennsylvania Drilling Company for core drilling the site. Work will be started next week. If the report on this drilling and other engineering work is satisfactory, and if Congress sees the

necessity for this dam, the final plans will be worked out.

Congress has authorized the construction of both Bull Shoals and Table Rock dams, but appropriations have not been made for their construction. They would protect the lower White river from floods and produce an enormous amount of electricity. The Bull Shoals project would produce 120,000 kilowatts and the Table Rock project, 140,000 kilowatts, which is more than is being produced in Arkansas today. The Norfolk dam, which is under construction, will produce 120,000 kilowatts, or a total of 380,000 kilowatts for the three. If the dams on Buffalo river and Eleven Point are built, they would raise the total up toward a half million kilowatts.

Work on the Norfolk dam is proceeding on schedule, with 30,000 cubic yards of concrete poured.

10 DAMS WILL PROVIDE STATE FLOOD CONTROL

Program to Cost \$80,000,000.

Gazette 11-30-41

Largely by means of 10 dams in Arkansas and Oklahoma the United States Engineers hope to lessen the number of floods on the lower Arkansas river and prevent the recurrence of disasters as large as those of 1927 and 1941. The dams, one of which is completed, two under construction and the others authorized, will cost at least \$80,000,000 to build but will in the long run save many times that many dollars.

The 10 dams will be: Pensacola dam on the Grand river in Oklahoma, the only completed project.

Markham Ferry and Fort Gibson dams on the same river, authorized by Congress.

Hulah dam on the Caney river, authorized.

Oologah dam on the Verdigris river, authorized.

Mannford dam on the Cimarron river, authorized.

Tenkiller Ferry dam on the Illinois river, authorized.

Wister Mountain dam on the Poteau river, authorized.

Blue Mountain dam on the Petit Jean river, now under construction.

Nimrod dam on Fourche La Fave river, nearly completed.

Storms Result In Lower Arkansas Floods.

Major floods on the lower Arkansas like those of 1927 and 1941 originate from storms in eastern Oklahoma and Kansas and western Arkansas, the engineers say, and if they can harness streams in this area the threat of floods can be materially lessened. Several other dams are planned, being built or are already completed on the upper Arkansas, but none are as important to the lower Arkansas as the 10 listed.

The Grand river contributes probably more than any one tributary of the Arkansas to floods here, the engineers say. In 1927 it contributed nearly one-fourth of the flood waters and this year it contributed a very large part in spite of the existence of Pensacola dam. Too much of the dam's stored waters are being used for power generation and not enough for flood storage.

The Pensacola project was planned for 960,000 acre-feet of flood control storage out of a total capacity of 2,100,000 acre-feet. It was constructed through a loan and grant of \$20,000,000 by the Public Works Administration to the Grand River Dam Authority, which was utilizing 1,580,000 acre-feet of its storage, instead of the planned 1,140,000 acre-feet, for power generation. The dam was recently taken over by the federal government and will probably now be used rightly as a flood control project.

Earthen Dams Will Supplement Others.

Markham Ferry and Fort Gibson dams have been authorized for construction on the lower Grand to

supplement flood control uses of the larger concrete dam. The Markham Ferry project would store 239,000 acre-feet of flood waters and Fort Gibson 486,000 acre-feet, bringing total flood storage of the Grand river to 1,685,000 acre-feet. Both would be earthen dams.

Other earthen dams planned by the engineers and authorized by Congress for construction in eastern Oklahoma are the Hulah dam, an \$8,840,000 project on the Caney river, a tributary of the Verdigris, with a storage of 280,000 acre-feet; the Oologah dam, an \$8,345,000 project on the Verdigris river with a capacity of 815,000 acre-feet; Mannford dam, a \$7,900,000 project on the Cimarron river west of Tulsa, with a capacity of 600,000 acre-feet; Tenkiller Ferry dam, a \$12,390,000 project on the Illinois river, with a capacity of 650,000 acre-feet, and Wister dam, a \$6,630,000 project on the Poteau river, with a capacity of 430,000 acre-feet.

Blue Mountain and Nimrod dams will help control waters on the only two streams in Arkansas which are heavy contributors to floods in the section, the Petit Jean and Fourche La Fave rivers, respectively. Blue Mountain, construction of which is well under way, and which is expected to cost \$4,922,000, will have a flood control capacity of 233,000 acre-feet. Nimrod dam, now nearly complete and costing about \$4,167,000, will store 305,000 acre-feet of potential flood waters.

Dams Will Reduce Levels of Floods.

Although construction of the 10 dams will not work any miracles and will neither prevent floods entirely nor necessarily reduce them to levels which will not endanger land, engineers of the Little Rock District Office point out that the dams, if they are all constructed, will reduce the necessity of building very high levees along the river. They will thereby save millions of dollars in levee costs.

There remains a need for additional levees along the river, though, and many of them would be in existence now except for the failure of local interests to co-operate in providing a small part of the cost of building them. Levees at Little Rock; west of Morrilton, near Dardanelle and on Spadra creek near Clarksville have been authorized by Congress but hearings have indicated an unwillingness on the part of local interests to bear an expense—usually consisting in providing a right-of-way—for their building.

Two other levees in Arkansas were authorized by Congress this year and the engineers believe local interests will co-operate when public hearings are held. They are levees along the south bank of the Arkansas from Little Rock to Pine Bluff and in Crawford County Levee District on the north side.

180 Miles of Levees Inadequate to Task.

There are 26 levee districts below Fort Smith with 180 miles of levee to protect 672,000 acres of land, the engineers say, but none of the "home-made" levees are adequate in height or width to protect the land against major floods. The Engineering Department of the Army has spent more than \$1,000,000 since passage of the flood control act of 1928 to repair the levees.

The federal government has established a national policy of protecting local lands from flood waters, but unless local interests co-operate to the extent required the levees cannot be built. The only Arkansas river levees authorized by Congress which have actually been constructed are those from North Little Rock to Gillett, at North Little Rock, and in Faulkner county.

Hearing Held On Water Valley Dam

Special to the Gazette. 12-11-41

Pochontas, Dec. 10.—Col. T. F. Kern of the United States army engineers, Little Rock district, held a public hearing on the proposed water valley dam and reservoir here today. Approximately 350 persons, including farmers of the Eleven Point river area, flood control interests and conservation interests of Arkansas and Missouri were present.

Project Explained. Colonel Kern said the proposed

dam, as a flood control project, would have 2,500 acres as a permanent conservation pool for wildlife, and during extreme flood, would have a reservoir area of 15,000 acres for short periods. No land in Oregon county, Missouri, would be in the permanent pool. If the dam is developed to the full capacity of flood control, and hydro-electric power development, more than 28,000 acres in Randolph and Oregon county would be inundated, including 2,200 acres in Missouri. Peak of the lake would be about 34,000 acres in extreme flood.

The dam would generate about 50,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

Four Randolph county communities would be flooded. They are Dalton, Eleven Point, Ocean and Water Valley. Arkansas state Highways Nos. 90 and 93, a Missouri state highway and several Randolph county roads would be flooded.

Few private or public utility lines are in the reservoir area. Drainage area of the Eleven Point river about the dam is 1,008 square miles.

Cost of the project as a flood control structure would be about \$7,600,000, of which \$1,644,000 would be used to buy land, relocate roads, churches, schools, cemeteries and utilities. Cost of a dual purpose structure would be about \$12,000,000.

Many Speakers Heard.

Most farmers of Oregon county favor construction of the dam for the dual purposes.

Irvin Mays of the Missouri State Conservation Committee spoke for the project.

L. C. Walker of the Federal Power Commission reported that his board was interested in the development of all natural hydro-electric resources of the nation.

Officials of the Frisco railroad said they favored the project.

R. E. Overman, Little Rock, chairman of the Arkansas State Flood Control Commission, spoke in favor of the project, while W. A. Jackson of Walnut Ridge spoke against it.

Pochontas civic interests favor the dual purpose dam. Apparently about 95 per cent of the audience favored the project. Many farmers of the reservoir area said that they would not oppose the project if they were assured that they would be paid fairly for their land and improvements.

Congressmen Clyde T. Ellis and Wilbur D. Mills, now in Washington, sent messages supporting the proposed project.

Colonel Kern's Statement.

Colonel Kern said that in his report he would show that in general people outside of the reservoir area were heartily in favor of the dam for flood control and hydro-electric power and those living in the reservoir area were opposed to the project because they were afraid of not being treated fairly.

Sentimental attachment for the land, which in some instances has been in the same families for 125 years, also is causing some opposition.

Building Of Blakeley Dam At Once Urged

Special to the Gazette. 12-13-41

Hot Springs, Dec. 12.—While there was a marked difference of opinion as to the agency which should build the Blakeley dam on the upper Ouachita river, sentiment was unanimous that the project should be started as soon as possible and rushed to completion was made at a hearing conducted by Lt. Col. S. D. Sturgis, chief of army engineers, Vicksburg, Miss., here today. The hearing was attended by state officials and representatives of commercial organizations of communities between Hot Springs and Camden.

Lieutenant Colonel Sturgis said cost of the dam was estimated at \$6,391,000, of which the government was to have appropriated \$2,000,000 when the Arkansas Power and Light Company and the government proposed it as a joint project.

It was explained that the dam would protect 73,000 acres against floods, including 19,800 between Rammel dam and the Caddo river, and the remaining 54,000 between the Caddo and the Little Missouri river. It would give full protection to the acreage between the Rammel dam and the Caddo river, and partial protection to the remainder.

Governor Urges Action.

"Construction of the Blakeley

dam will be one of the greatest things that could come to this area," Governor Adkins declared. It would be of inestimable value in providing flood control, power and recreational facilities.

Governor Adkins referred to the proposed \$33,000,000 aluminum plant below Rammel dam, and told of the necessity for immediate construction of the dam to provide additional power.

Power Company Opposed.

Opposition to building of the dam by the Arkansas Power and Light Company was expressed in letters written by Congressmen Harris and Ellis of Arkansas. The letters were read by W. C. McClure, secretary of the Camden Chamber of Commerce.

Would End Bickering.

Ben E. Carter, chairman of the Arkansas Department of Public Utilities, expressed hope that construction on Blakeley dam will begin soon. He pointed out its great power possibilities.

"I can see no point in denying private or state co-operation, if the same can be agreed upon and carried out with the primary objective of securing the greatest good to the state and nation," he said.

Recreation Value Seen.

Speaking for construction of Blakeley dam from a recreational angle, L. A. Henry, secretary of the state Planning Board, declared that more than a million dollars in revenue would come to the state, and real estate values would increase.

W. W. Mitchell, state highway director, urged early completion. He said tourists want to go to recreation points of interest.

Jerry Witt, representing the Montgomery county Chamber of Commerce, and County Judge L. L. Beavers, Mount Ida, expressed opposing views. Mr. Witt said that the Ouachita National Forest Reserve had acquired more than 100,000 acres in Montgomery county, which represented considerable loss in taxes, and if the Arkansas Power and Light Company could build Blakeley dam, he believed the county would receive taxes on the acreage covered.

Judge Beavers said the people of Montgomery county considered it of "little importance who builds the dam."

William Seiz, vice president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, presented resolutions unanimously adopted by his organization, which called attention to the increase in tourist patronage in the state and to the Rammel and Carpenter dams.

The resolution asked that the federal Power Commission "restore all rights to the Arkansas Power and Light Company, provided it is in a position to immediately start construction on Blakeley dam, or if the necessity requires the development of this project by federal agencies, that the Arkansas Power and Light Company be reimbursed for its full equity."

Presents Company's Case.

Col. C. S. Lynch, executive vice president of the Arkansas Power and Light Company, said his company was "not so particular about who built this (Blakeley) dam, or who controls this power, except that the man who gets the advantage of this power should be the man who puts up the money."

He said that the Rammel and Carpenter dams were built without help of any organization.

"If this dam is built by the government," Colonel Lynch said, "charges for the power should make it self-supporting."

Federal Control Favored.

R. E. Overman, of Little Rock, chairman of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission and former mayor of Little Rock, recommended that the government build and control Blakeley dam. He was supported by M. W. Greeson, Prescott, member of the commission and by Mr. McClure.

HOUSE REFUSES TWO PROJECTS ON WHITE RIVER

Bull Shoals, Table Rock Killed.

Gazette 5-12-42

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 11.—The House killed two flood control and power projects in connection with a War Department appropriation bill today. Administration leaders decided to shelve temporarily the separate \$1,000,000,000 rivers and harbors bill "because of the temper of the House."

"We decided not to bring it up until the House cools off from the effects of the civilian defense and congressional pensions controversies," explained Chairman Mansfield (Dem., Tex.) of the Rivers and Harbors Committee. "In their present frame of mind, the members are apt to vote against many worthy projects in the bill."

The omnibus measure would authorize the \$285,000,000 St. Lawrence seaway and the \$200,000,000 Florida ship canal among other projects. It had been slated for consideration this month but Mansfield indicated action would be deferred until April.

Mansfield denied reports the bill had been held up at the request of the administration. Opponents went ahead with plans to block approval of the bill by the House. Representative Beiter (Dem., N. Y.), a leading opponent, said the opposition had organized a "Strategy Committee" of some 90 members representing virtually every state, whose job would be to organize opposition within their state delegations. He claimed polls indicated sufficient pledges to defeat the measure.

Funds for Table Rock And Bull Shoals Denied.

In passing a \$333,950,826 appropriation for the War Department's civil functions and sending it to the Senate, the House eliminated, 104 to 65, a \$16,700,000 allotment for starting the Bull Shoals flood control and power project in Arkansas. It refused, 126 to 80, to add \$2,106,000 for initial construction of the Table Rock dam in Missouri. The two projects would cost ultimately \$87,500,000.

It was the first setback for advocates of a program for hydroelectric development of the White river.

The Table Rock amendment was offered by Representative Terry (Dem., Ark.) to appropriate \$2,106,000 to finance initial construction of the \$37,000,000 dam.

Representative Cochran (Dem., Mo.) offered the amendment eliminating an appropriation of \$16,700,000 to finance starting work on the \$50,000,000 Bull Shoals dam. This fund had been approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

"You saved a total of \$37,000,000 when you knocked out Table Rock," Cochran declared. "Here's where you can save \$50,000,000 more."

Representatives Short (Rep., Mo.), Terry, Ellis (Dem., Ark.) and Rankin (Dem., Miss.) pleaded for both projects as essential to provide power needed for the war effort.

Representatives Powers (Rep., N. J.), Rich (Rep., Pa.) and Cochran, arguing neither dam would be completed until 1946, contended they would be of little avail to the war program.

When Rich suggested the war would be over before the power could be available, Rankin declared:

"God speed Rich in his effort to close the war so soon."

Short said he had sought development of Table Rock power for 14 years and termed it one of the "greatest power projects in the nation."

Representative Ellis expressed hope the dam projects would be reinserted in the bill in the Senate. He blamed the "power trust" in Missouri for their elimination.

Several Millions For

Arkansas Levee Work.

The House kept intact a variety of other allotments ranging from maintenance of the Panama canal to expenses for burying soldier dead. They included:

\$161,437,800 for flood control projects already under way.

\$107,516,810 for the Panama canal, including \$56,826,800 toward continuing construction of a third set of locks.

\$57,502,500 for improvement and maintenance of rivers and harbors. \$227,840 for the Alaska Communications Commission.

\$832,345 for burial expenses. \$1,300,000 for hydroelectric power at the Fort Peck dam.

\$4,166,000 for hydroelectric power at the Bonneville dam.

\$967,531 for the Soldiers' Home in Washington.

Included was \$30,000,000 for flood control work in the lower Mississippi Valley. This was hailed by Arkansas congressmen as another step in their fight to obtain greater levee protection.

Several million dollars of the appropriation will be used in continuing the raising of levees in the middle section of the river on the Arkansas as well as the east bank of the Mississippi river under a compromise program authorized last year abandoning proposed floodway diversions through Arkansas and Louisiana.

Representative Norrell (Dem., Ark.), one of the participants in the compromise, said the appropriation, which he predicted the Senate would approve, would go a long way towards building up Arkansas protection from floods "and increase the value of the land in the area."

APPROVES FUND TO START DAMS ON WHITE RIVER

Subcommittee For Power Projects.

Gazette 3-24-42

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 23.—Hope for congressional approval of the Table Rock and Bull Shoals hydroelectric dams on the White river was revived today when a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee approved funds to start construction.

Chairman Thomas (Dem., Okla.) of the subcommittee said the group had approved a \$16,700,000 appropriation to start the \$50,000,000 Bull Shoals dam in Arkansas and \$2,106,000 to begin the \$37,000,000 Table Rock in Missouri. He said the full committee would consider the action tomorrow.

The House eliminated both projects from the War Department civil functions bill before its passage several weeks ago.

The House Appropriations Committee had approved Bull Shoals but rejected Table Rock, but the House rejected an amendment to add Table Rock to the bill and accepted an amendment to eliminate Bull Shoals.

Advocates of the dams said the power was needed for the development of war industry in a territory rich with raw materials. Opponents, including Representative Woodrum (Dem., Va.) argued that neither dam would supply any power before December, 1944, and the war would be won before they could be brought into production.

Believes Committee Will Support Action.

Representative Ellis (Dem., Ark.) said the subcommittee's action "constitutes a signal victory for the forces in Congress and the administration who are demanding all-out war production."

"These dams will produce 880,000,000 kilowatt hours of power per year—power that is vitally needed to deliver more bullets and more bombs into the ranks of the Japs and Nazis," he said. "I have reason to believe the full Appropriations Committee of the Senate will sustain the action of the subcommittee."

BILL TO START WORK AT BULL SHOALS PASSED

House Votes Fund For Project.

Gazette 4-23-42

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, April 22.—The House approved today the War Department civil functions appropriations bill, accepting a compromise report allowing \$500,000 for initial work on Bull Shoals dam on the White river in Arkansas. Senate acceptance of the compromise, which Senate and House conferees said was assured, would send the bill to the White House.

The Senate had proposed a \$16,700,000 appropriation to start work on Bull Shoals, and \$2,106,000 to begin construction of Table Rock dam, also on the White river, in Missouri. Conferees eliminated the appropriation for Table Rock, but agreed to the \$500,000 for completing preliminary work on Bull Shoals. Advocates of this dam said they would seek an appropriation later this session to begin construction.

Conferees eliminated from the bill \$1,025,000 for expenditure this year on Table Rock and Bull Shoals for preliminary explorations. Representative Terry (Dem., Ark.) said he would seek a substantial appropriation for actual construction work on Bull Shoals through an appeal to President Roosevelt.

Agree to Increase For Making Surveys.

The compromise report carries a total of \$343,939,826 for flood control and river and harbor projects throughout the country.

The House accepted a Senate item of \$213,000 for work on the so-called Tulsa-West Tulsa flood control project designed to protect Oklahoma defense industries and agreed to an increase of from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 in the amount for surveys looking to starting additional flood control projects after the war.

LITTLE ROCK'S WATER SUPPLY VITAL FACTOR

Gazette 7-5-42

Enabled City to Get War Plants.

Many politicians, organizations and individuals may claim credit for establishment of the great army training camp near Little Rock but the records will show that one of the main factors considered by the War Department was the availability of an adequate water supply.

Back in 1940, Colonel Stanley L. Scott, at that time in charge of the Little Rock Engineer District, reported that plans for establishing a training camp for National Guard divisions at Camp Robinson depended largely upon Little Rock's co-operation in construction of pipe lines that would give an adequate water supply for the training camp.

Fortunately, Little Rock was able to meet this requirement. Several years ago the Little Rock Municipal Water Works had arranged to pipe water in unlimited quantities from Lake Winona in the mountains west of the city. All that was needed was to lay pipe lines under the Arkansas river and extend them to Camp Robinson. This was speedily done and soldiers at Camp Robinson were assured of ample supply of unsurpassed quality.

The same situation arose when plans to establish an ordnance plant at Maumelle were presented, but again all conditions were met by the city and the water company.

The increased demands of the Little Rock Municipal Water Works' system by reason of added popula-

tion in Greater Little Rock and demands of Camp Robinson and Maumelle Ordnance Works have thrown a tremendous burden on the system.

Maximum daily demands in 1939 were slightly over 10,000,000 gallons. It is anticipated that maximum demands per day this summer will be in excess of 16,000,000 gallons. It is therefore apparent that war demands have added approximately two-thirds of the 1939 consumption rate on the Little Rock plant in two years.

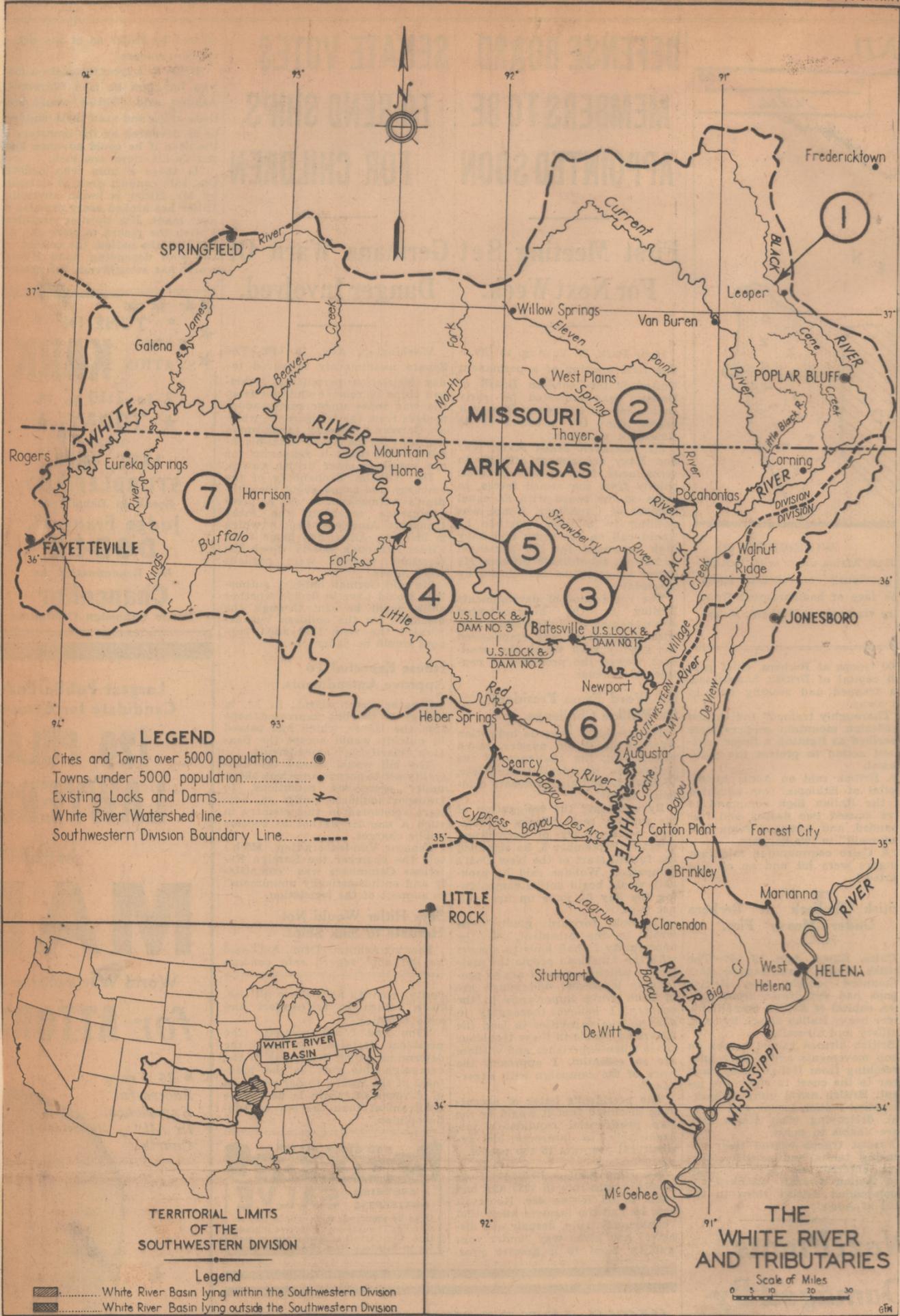
The Municipal Water Works is able to meet these tremendous increases only because the new water supply has adequate capacity, and the quality of water from that supply makes it possible to operate the filtration plant in the city at rates in excess of capacity. This has taken careful planning. For example, a new reservoir has just been put into operation at the filtration plant which holds 5,000,000 gallons of filtered water. This reservoir was constructed on schedule in spite of the difficulty in obtaining materials.

Little Rock was fortunate in having available this splendid water supply as it enabled the Municipal Water Works to play a tremendous part in the war effort, an official of the company stated.

HUGE POWER AND FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

WAR DEPARTMENT

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY



No. 7 and 8 on the map show the proposed locations of multiple purpose dams on the White river at Table Rock and Bull Shoal, respectively, as recommended to Congress by the War Department yesterday. The two projects were termed the key to development of the entire White river basin. Other flood control reservoirs already approved for construction are: 1—Clearwater, Mo., under construction; 2—Water Valley; 3—Bell Foley; 4—Lone Rock; 5—Norfolk, funds for which are available; 6—Greer's Ferry, near Heber Springs. Bull Shoals is in Baxter county and Table Rock is near Branson, Mo., just north of the Arkansas line.

in prevalence of malaria carrying mosquitoes, increased morale, improved navigation and provision of irrigation for the Grand Prairie rice belt.

The Bull Shoals reservoir would extend along a portion of the boundary between Marion and Baxter counties and through the north part of Marion and Boone counties. It also would include parts of Ozark and Taney counties, Missouri. The drainage area was estimated at 5,905 square miles.

The Table Rock reservoir, although largely in Missouri, would dip into Carroll and Boone counties. Its drainage area would be about 4,000 square miles.

"Interest in the development is

of national importance," said Colonel Scott. "The market for the power lies in Missouri and Arkansas. The flood control benefits would accrue largely in Arkansas, but also would be felt in Mississippi and Louisiana."

Col. Eugene Reybold Says Conclusions Reasonable.

Col. Eugene Reybold, former division engineer stationed here and now assistant chief of staff in charge of supplies at Washington, said in an appended note: "I believe the district engineer [Colonel Scott] has arrived at reasonable conclusions in each phase of his study."

There is only one existing reservoir on the White river. It is situated at Ozark Beach, Mo., and owned by the Empire District Electric Company. It was built by the Ozark Power and Water Company in 1913.

Other Advantages For Development Claimed.

Advantages cited included: Reduced cost of levee repairs, less interruption of traffic, less loss of business, reduced expense of rehabilitation and relief for flood victims, less water pollution, decrease

White River Legislation Introduced

Gazette 8-27-40

Washington, Aug. 26 (AP).—Senator Clark (Dem., Mo.) introduced today a bill authorizing construction of two flood control and power developments on the White river in Arkansas and Missouri at a cost of \$79,000,000, in accordance with an army engineers' recommendation. The measure, which also would appropriate funds, directed that one dam and reservoir be constructed at Bull Shoals, Ark., and the other at Table Rock, Mo.

Ellis Offers White River Dams Bill

Gazette 8-28-40

Washington, Aug. 27 (AP).—Representative Ellis (Dem., Ark.) introduced in the House today a bill to authorize appropriation of \$79,000,000 for construction of flood control and hydro-electric dam and reservoir projects on the White river at Bull Shoals in Arkansas and at Table Rock in Missouri.

The bill was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Clark (Dem., Mo.).

HOPES FOR FIVE DAMS IN WHITE RIVER DISTRICT

Gazette 9-7-40

Senator Miller In Optimistic Mood.

By JOHN L. FLETCHER. (Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Harrison, Sept. 6.—Hope that five dual-purpose dams will be built in the White river valley under provisions of the national defense program was expressed by United States Senator John E. Miller of Searcy here today.

Attending a United States army engineers' hearing to determine whether people of the Ozark region want full hydro-electric facilities installed immediately at Norfolk dam in Baxter county, Senator Miller named the five projects as follows:

Norfolk dam, on the North Fork river four miles above its confluence with the White. Its construction as a flood control project only has been approved by Congress. Favorable recommendation by army engineers after today's great demonstration, which is believed a certainty, would add power production equipment at a completed cost of \$27,000,000.

Lone Rock dam, already authorized, on the Buffalo river.

Greer's Ferry, also authorized, on the Little Red river near Heber Springs.

Bull Shoals, a huge project that has not received congressional authorization, on the White river near the Marion-Baxter county line. This proposed dam and one at Table Rock, in Southwest Missouri, have been recommended to Congress by the War Department. They would cost \$77,000,000.

The Narrows, on the Little Missouri river.

Senator Miller said there is a possibility that a dam also will be obtained at Water Valley on the Elevenpoint river.

"Additional legislation will be required," he said, "which we hope to push through at this session."

Colonel Scott Expected To Favor Power Dam at Norfolk.

Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott of Little Rock, acting director of United States Division Engineers, presided at an all-day hearing in the Lyric theater. He heard a stream of Arkansas and Missouri witnesses agree that the industrial future of North Arkansas depends almost entirely on rapid development of cheap electric energy. No dissenting evidence was introduced, not even by the Missouri Wildlife Association, which was expected to object on the ground that a dam would put a crimp in the fisherman's paradise.

At a luncheon as guest of Harrison business men, Colonel Scott indicated that his report to the chief of engineers at Washington will include a recommendation that power facilities be installed at the Norfolk dam at the start. He said he never had attended a public hearing at which such unanimous approval of a project was voiced.

Arkansas Handicapped By Its Lack of Power.

Congressman Clyde T. Ellis of Bentonville, who with Senator Miller has sponsored the White river development legislation in Congress, told the approximately 850 persons at the hearing that Arkansas has been denied national defense contracts because it cannot provide cheap power and because of inequality of freight rates.

He disclosed that the state "has virtually been denied a large aluminum plant" because it cannot furnish 35,000 kilowatts.

"We haven't that much surplus power to sell," he said. "If we did, the price would be higher than the price the company would pay. Our electric rates are twice as high as those in states that surround us."

It isn't the private power companies' fault, either. They are forced to import energy all the way from its Tennessee Valley Authority connecting point in Mississippi and from the Sterlington (La.) plant of the Arkansas Power and Light Company. It costs too much to bring power from such distances."

Arkansas in Critical Condition, Says Mr. Fitzhugh.

Chairman Thomas Fitzhugh of the state Utilities Commission went further and said Arkansas "is getting into a critical condition" so far as availability of power is concerned.

"Our sources of imported energy are drying up," he said. "It won't be long before the TVA will be unable to furnish power to Arkansas. We are in a pitiful condition. The proposed Blakeley mountain dam on the Ouachita river has almost vanished. The commission has been informed that the company [Electric Bond & Share Company, which the Arkansas Power and Light Company is a subsidiary] will complete a huge power-production project near New Orleans before undertaking the Blakeley dam."

Dr. Blalock Cites Figures To Support Mr. Fitzhugh.

Dr. H. W. Blalock, member of the Utilities Commission, explained Mr. Fitzhugh's statements with figures. He said 62 per cent of the power used in Arkansas last year was imported from other states. He emphasized Chairman Fitzhugh's black picture of conditions with the disclosure that no private Arkansas company has announced plans to increase plant capacity during the next two years.

Senator Would Force Building of Blakeley Dam.

Privately, Senator Miller offered what he termed a partial solution to the immediate problem.

"I advocate that the Federal Power Commission compel the Arkansas Power and Light Company to construct Blakeley dam, for which it was granted a permit months ago, at once," he said. The company has asked the commission for authority to postpone construction.

Congressman Ellis Tells Of Pressing Need of Power.

Congressman Ellis was the first witness called by Colonel Scott. The congressman commended Senator Miller, who he said was "recorded as the first exponent of the control of rivers with dams." Mr. Ellis would not talk about the report that he may oppose Senator Miller in the 1942 senatorial race, but others mentioned it often.

"In what Colonel Scott termed an 'excellent explanation of a difficult subject,' Congressman Ellis

based his appeal for immediate installation of hydro-electric facilities at Norfolk dam on the need of power in the national defense program.

"We have no natural gas or oil and very little coal in the White river valley," he said. "But we are rich in potential water power with which to process our antimony, mercury, phosphorus, bauxite, zinc and lead. The White river could yield as many kilowatts as now being produced by the Tennessee Valley Authority."

"Yet we are denied all of these things because of a shortage of power. Even our Rural Electrification Administration projects are suffering because rates are too high. [The Arkansas Power and Light Company is furnishing REA cooperative associations with power at the cheapest similar rates in the nation, but Mr. Ellis and others said these are excessive.]

"Our opponents formerly said one dam should not be utilized for both flood control and power production. Engineers have proved they reduce the cost of each other. During a flood, Norfolk dam would not be limited to the first 100 feet allotted to flood control. Its entire 230 feet would be available to protect the valley below. The same would be true in producing energy, the entire dam being available for that job."

Congressman Ellis commended many agencies and persons for their aid in drawing up the White river plan and getting it before Congress. Among others, he named Colonel Scott and his staff, who he said "worked this thing out," and Col. Eugene Reybold, former division engineer, who has been transferred from Little Rock to Washington.

Senator Miller Also Stresses Need of Power Development.

Senator Miller, saying a lack of power is preventing the state from obtaining industries, added that he and others "can admit now that what we really want from these dams is electric energy."

"You can send delegations to see the big corporations and the Chambers of Commerce can resolve, but there will be few new plants until the state can offer an abundance of cheap power," he said. "Then the freight problem will solve itself. Those industrial boys know how to deal with the railroads."

"I would be almost willing to retire from the Senate if my dream for the development of hydro-electric power comes true. A man could make a living accidentally then."

The senator endorsed the proposal to install equipment in the dam now, but advocated delay in setting up the authority to handle the distribution of resulting power until the dam is completed.

"We are not sure that the TVA plan is the right answer," he explained.

All Favor Immediate Power Facilities.

Chairman R. E. Overman of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission introduced a resolution sponsored by the commission, recommending immediate installation of hydro-electric facilities at Norfolk.

Others added their endorsements, including L. A. Henry, engineer director of the state Planning Board and R. J. Beamish Jr., of Washington, representing the REA, who said a rural co-operative project in Texas is buying power produced at a government dam on the lower Colorado river at four mills a kilowatt hour, compared to the Arkansas average to co-operatives of eight mills.

The proposal was approved by Charles S. Christian of Little Rock, engineer for the Flood Control Commission; Dr. S. C. Dellinger, professor of zoology at the University of Arkansas, who said dams do not impair fishing; J. C. Murray, traffic manager of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, J. E. Simpson of Berryville and Tom Shiras, Mountain Home publisher.

R. M. Ruthven, Baxter county judge, an ardent supporter of the plan, offered a resolution late in the hearing that threatened to create a division in the solid ranks of cities and counties along the White river. He proposed that the meeting adopt a resolution calling for power producing facilities at the dam "or nothing."

There was sharp protest from persons whose property and lives in the lower stretches of the White would benefit largely from the flood control phase of the dam.

Dean Coleman of Batesville urged harmony and Judge Ruthven reworded his resolution to eliminate "or nothing." It was adopted unanimously then.

Larger Dam Necessary If

Power Is to Be Generated.

The army engineers propose to erect a concrete gravity dam with an uncontrolled spillway. If operated for flood control, it would form a permanent conservation pool of about 1,700 acres. The flood control retention pool above the conservation pool normally would be empty and only during a flood would water be stored above it.

If a flood equal to that of April, 1927, occurs after the dam is built, it would back water about 36 miles upstream with a maximum width of about a mile. Such a flood would cover about 14,000 acres, most of it in Baxter county. Some would be in Fulton county.

The project would be capable of producing 108,000,000 kilowatt hours of prime power annually. A dual-purpose dam would result in a power pool of 22,000 acres along 45 miles. The latter dam would be 230 feet high and about 2,500 feet long. It would require two years to construct.

In times of flood, it would hold back the waters of North Fork river until the White river could handle the extra burden without overflowing the rich farm lands of the lower reaches. It would complement the proposed huge Bull Shoals dam in controlling the water of the entire White river. Table Rock dam in Missouri would be another major key to the system.

Harrison Wins Praise For Its Hospitality.

Citizens of Cotter, Baxter county, sent a big delegation and the high school band. Development of the river in their back yards will mean much to them.

Layton Coffman of Harrison, member of the Flood Control Commission, was the generalissimo of the day. He worked tirelessly to make the event a success and those who consumed quantities of fried chicken with him at noon will want to return to Harrison. Colonel Scott, speaking at the luncheon, said the hospitality of the people could be matched at few other places.

J. R. Tucker, president of the Harrison Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the visitors.

Gazette 9-18-40 Flood Control Program Will Be Encouraged.

Much important development and groundwork has been done concerning the proposed reservoirs for flood control and hydro-electric power.

Our senators and congressmen should be congratulated on their determined efforts to secure funds for dams and reservoirs which will not only be helpful in flood control but will help to produce hydro-electric power, which is so badly needed in helping to attract and secure industry for the state.

I shall recommend to the legislature that it provide sufficient funds for the Flood Control Commission to function properly.

Flood Control Projects Are Inspected

Democrat 10-16-40

Major General Julian L. Schley, chief of U. S. Army engineers, was to visit two dam sites in North Arkansas today on the second of a seven-day tour of the Southwestern Division. He is accompanied by Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, Little Rock District engineer and acting Southwestern Division engineer.

General Schley visited the Clearwater dam, northwest of Poplar Bluff, Mo., yesterday. He was to visit the Norfolk site in Baxter county and the Bull Shoals site on White river today, following a luncheon at Mountain Home.

The tour of the Southwestern Division will include visits in the Tulsa, Caddo and Denison Districts before returning to the Little Rock District next Sunday. On Monday, he will visit the Blue Mountain and Nimrod dams before reaching Little Rock at 4 p. m. for a six-hour stop. He will leave that night for Washington.

Officers in the Little Rock district office said the itinerary and schedule might be changed.

Gen. Schley's Party Back In State Monday

Special to the Gazette. 10-18-40

Harrison, Oct. 17.—Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of United States army engineers, spent last night in Harrison after the second day of his tour of inspection of flood control and hydroelectric projects in the Southwestern Division.

In the party were Col. Stanley L. Scott, head of the Southwestern Division; Maj. Thomas Kern, Little Rock; Major Montgomery of Tulsa; John T. Woodruff of Springfield, Mo., and Congressman Clyde T. Ellis.

The inspection tour today took the party into Oklahoma and will include Kansas, Colorado and Texas. Coming back to Arkansas Monday, the group will inspect Blue Mountain and Nimrod dam sites. General Schley will return to Washington Wednesday.

Arkansas TVA Predicted If FDR Wins

Democrat 10-20-40
Congressman Ellis Outlines Plans for Possible Development.

A flood control development in Arkansas as comprehensive as the TVA was predicted yesterday as being contingent upon the re-election of President Roosevelt by Congressman Clyde Ellis, here to attend the Arkansas-Texas football game.

Congressman Ellis, who has just completed an inspection tour of flood control projects with Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of the U. S. Army Engineers, said he had been assured in high quarters that "if the president is re-elected with a Democratic Congress, Arkansas will certainly receive a flood control program similar to the TVA."

Schley Enthusiastic. Congressman Ellis said that Gen. Schley was very enthusiastic over the possibilities of a program whereby complete control of the various river valleys would be obtained.

Following an inspection tour of flood control projects in the Southwestern division, Gen. Schley, Congressman Ellis said, visualized an ultimate program of linking together with the TVA projects on the White river, the Grand river dam authority in Oklahoma, the Red river project in Texas, the Upper Arkansas valley, the Ouachita and other smaller tributaries into one vast flood control and power development.

Such an eventuality, Congressman Ellis said, will meet the development of other natural resources in Arkansas until the limit is attained.

DELEGATES ASK ABANDONING OF FLOODWAY IDEA

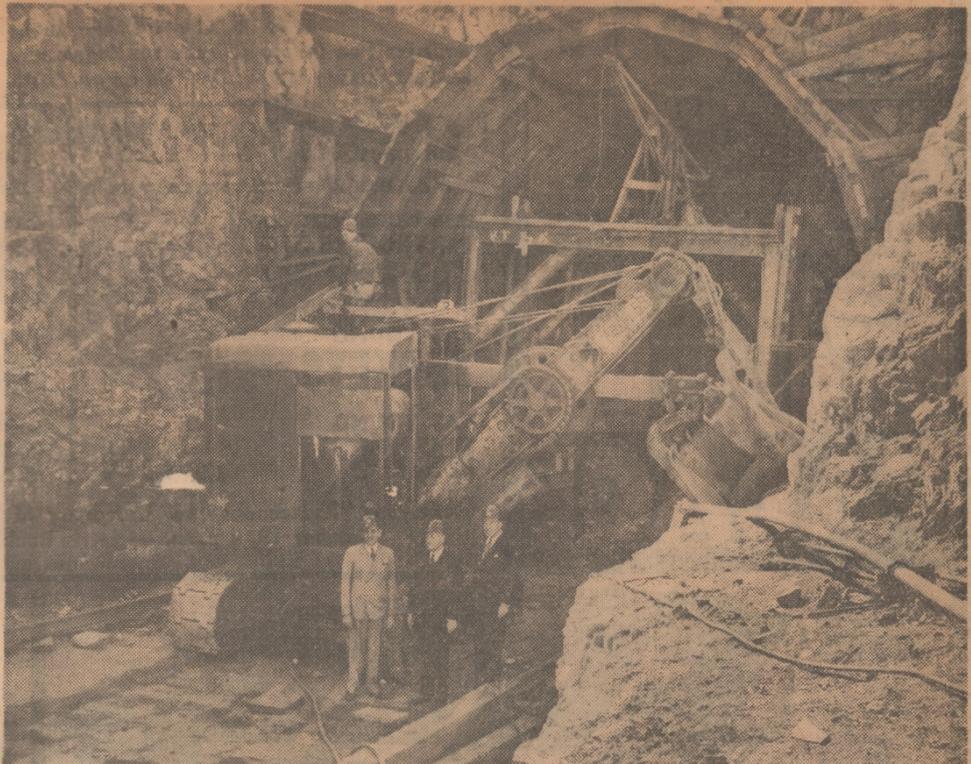
Gazette 10-22-40

Raising Arkansas Levee Sought.

A strong protest against use of the proposed Eudora spillway in the federal program to control floods of the Mississippi valley was voiced by a southeast Arkansas delegation at a conference here yesterday with Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of United States Army Engineers.

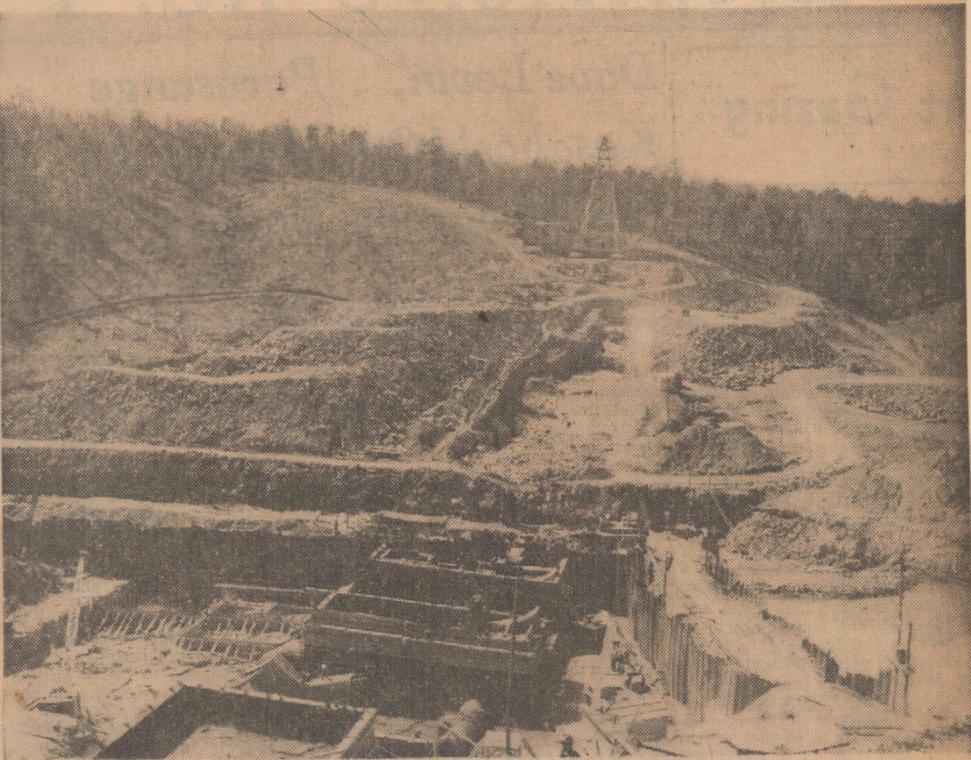
The delegates, led by United States Senator John E. Miller and Congressman W. F. Norrell, requested that the river levee on the Arkansas side be elevated three

ARMY CHIEF INSPECTS DAM



Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of United States Army Engineers, is shown inspecting tunneling operations at the Clearwater dam site on the Black river, northwest of Poplar Bluff, Mo. The left side of the tunnel is shown with preparations being made for concreting the outer works of the tunnel. Left to right, Lt. Col. Stanley L. Scott, Little Rock district engineer; Major General Schley, and Maj. T. F. Kern, assistant Little Rock district engineer.

ENGINEERS AT NIMROD DAM



The picture gives general view of construction work at Nimrod Dam in Perry county. The picture was made from the huge concrete mixing machine on west abutment of the dam, facing east. The round pipe-shaped object at the bottom of the photograph is the inspection tunnel which will run the length of the structure.

feet to a level equal to that of the dike on the Mississippi side.

If this is done, they contended, the straightening out of river bends will permit rapid passage of flood waters without endangering the levees on either side of the river. Lamar Williamson of Monticello, lawyer-member of the state Flood Control Commission, asked that the present levee system be tested further or increased in height, rather than to use the proposed floodway west of the channel in times of high water and subject 143,000 acres of rich land to overflow.

Property Owners Have Been Refused Damages.

Use of the floodway would involve construction of a set-back levee behind the present earthen barrier. Property owners in the floodway sought to recover \$50,000,000 damages from the government for alleged losses caused by the floodway proposal but a test suit by Mrs. Julia C. Sponenbarger was lost in the United States Supreme Court last December. Mr. Williamson was chief attorney for Mrs. Sponenbarger, who owned 40

acres in Desha county. She contended the value of her land had been reduced from \$5,000 to \$1,000 because of the threat of overflow. The court held the lands were not damaged "but actually benefited."

Following the Supreme Court decision a movement was started to amend the flood control plan to eliminate the spillway. Land in the spillway area (125 miles long and 15 miles wide in Arkansas and Louisiana) has been in demand. The Desha county penitentiary farm is situated in this area. It is owned by Mr. Williamson and others, who bought it from the state for \$1 an acre and leased it to the Penitentiary Board. The state has an option to buy the land back in 1943 for \$25 an acre, after it has been cleared by convicts. In return, the state will receive \$10 an acre for all land cleared. This money will be retained from the owners' share of the cotton and corn.

Among others present were: Homer M. Adkins, Democratic nominee for governor; Lt. Col. Stanley L. Scott, Little Rock District engineer; Chairman R. E. Overman of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission, Sam Epstein, Nelson

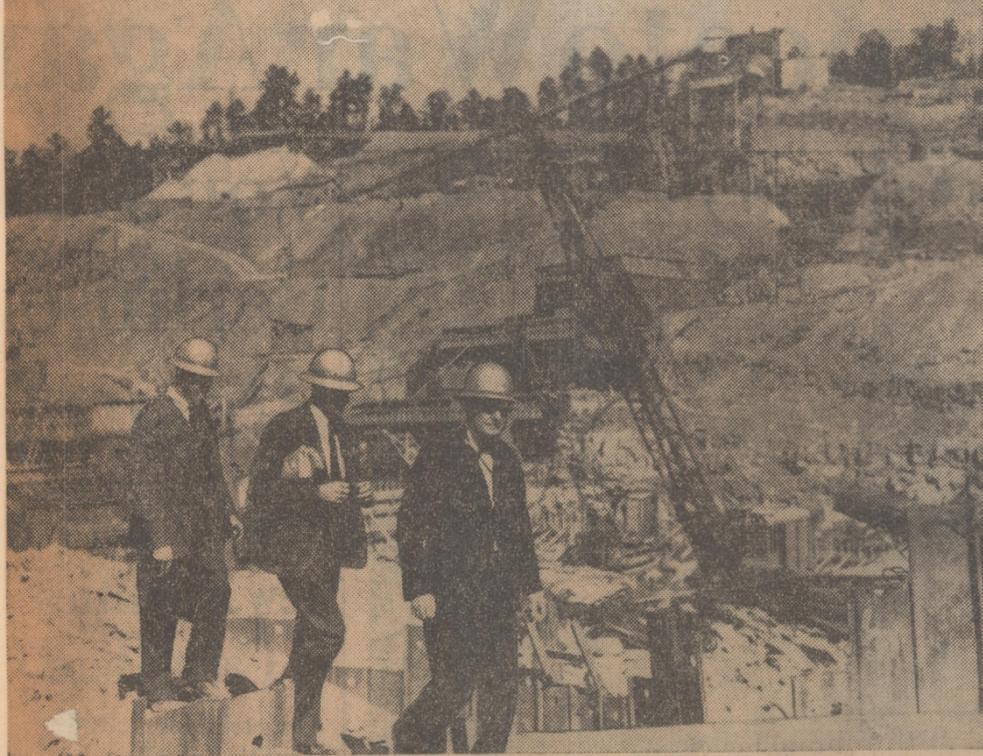
W. Bunker, Clyde Lovett, Oscar Burnside, Jack Gillison, E. T. Cashion and B. C. Clark of Lake Village; Claude McKinnon of Dumas, Sam J. Wilson of Montrose, J. L. Parker of Arkansas City and Charles S. Christian, engineer of the state Flood Control Commission.



Gen. Julian L. Schley, left, chief of U. S. Engineers, is shown as he inspected one of the "holes" at Nimrod Dam yesterday. Others in the picture are W. W. Ralphe, resident engineer for the project, and Maj. D. W. Griffiths, chief of operations for the Little Rock District, U. S. Engineers, in whose district the project is located.

Army Engineers Inspect Nimrod Project

Democrat 10-22-40



An inspection of work on Nimrod dam, west of Little Rock, on Fourche la Pave river, by Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, chief of United States Army Engineers, yesterday afternoon completed a seven-day tour of flood control works in the Southwestern Division with Lieut. Col. Stanley L. Scott, Little Rock District engineer

and acting Southwestern Division engineer. General Schley is shown in the lead while going over the work at Nimrod, followed by W. W. Ralphe, resident engineer, and Maj. D. W. Griffiths, operations officer of the Little Rock District. Approximately 11 per cent of the concrete in the structure has

Norfolk Dam Will Have Penstocks To Adjust Flood Control Differences

Gazette 10-29-40

Revised plans agreed upon for the Norfolk dam project call for a flood control dam with penstocks for future installation of electric generating equipment, Maj. T. F. Kern, assistant Little Rock District engineer, said yesterday on his return from Washington where he conferred with the chief of engineers. Major Kern said flood control designs, plans and specifications have been agreed upon by War Department officials subject to final approval after suggested changes have been made. Revisions of the plans and the writing of final specifications will proceed immediately.

Charles S. Christian, chief engineer of the state Flood Control Commission, yesterday announced that the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association had appointed a tri-state committee to "meet in efforts to harmonize existing differences in opinion regarding modification of the adopted project for lower Mississippi flood control."

The committee will hold its first meeting at Vicksburg, Miss., Wednesday. Arkansas members are: J. G. Burke, Helena, attorney for the White River Drainage District; P. C. Burnside, Lake Village, attorney for the Southeast Arkansas Levee District, and W. G. Huxtable, West Memphis, chief engineer for the St. Francis Levee District. Meeting with U. S. Engineer officials, in charge of the project, the Mississippi Valley group are to discuss any present, or possibilities of future differences which might arise in connection with construction of the project.

Lake Dams Avert Flood Damage

11-29-40

Special to the Gazette. Hot Springs, Nov. 28.—Value of big hydro-electric dams as a factor in flood control was proved this week when Lake Hamilton and Lake Catherine rose as a result of mountain streams having become swollen after several days of heavy rain.

Lake Hamilton, where Carpenter dam is situated, was utilized in the same manner as a flood control reservoir. The result was that serious damage along the Ouachita river below the Arkansas Power and Light Company's projects was averted. A report was made by Col. C. S. Lynch, chief engineer, following a study of records at Carpenter and Rempel dams. The latter is on Lake Catherine.

Record of Water Storage. The record for Lake Hamilton showed that more than 100,000 acre feet was stored in that lake, and that it entered the reservoir at the rate of 50,000 cubic feet a second. However, the water was held in the lake and passed out at the rate of 15,000 cubic feet a second. Had it not been for the Lake Hamilton reservoir a stage of 19.5 feet at the Rockport bridge on the Ouachita would have resulted with

persons are invited to attend the hearing. Colonel Scott said that an attempt would be made to determine to what extent local interests would co-operate in bearing the costs of rights-of-way, construction, operation and maintenance of the desired improvement.

"Oral statements will be heard," he said, "but for the accuracy of the record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing."

The statements should be made out in sextuplicate form, and may either be mailed or given to him at the hearing, Colonel Scott said.

Four-State Meeting on Flood Control in January

Gazette 12-5-40

A meeting of flood control organizations of Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri will be held at Hot Springs January 9 and 10 to formulate a five-state flood control compact, officials of the Arkansas Flood Control Commission said yesterday. The proposed compact would undertake to secure legislation affecting flood control, soil and water conservation in the Southwest.

Progress Made On Program Of Flood Control

Democrat 12-8-40

Rapid progress is being made in construction of three flood control projects and three other projects in the Little Rock Engineer district, Major D. W. Griffiths, operations officer, said yesterday. Nimrod dam, being erected on Fourche la Pave river in Perry county, is farthest advanced of the three flood control projects.

Construction on the Nimrod dam was begun in May and was 31 per cent complete November 30, Major Griffiths said. It is due for completion by March, 1942.

The outlet works of the Blue mountain dam, to be erected on Petit Jean river in Yell county, was 16 per cent complete and is due for completion at the end of July, 1941. The outlet works of the Clearwater dam, to be erected on Black river near Piedmont, Mo., is 19 per cent complete, and is scheduled to be finished in October next year.

Three preparatory projects for construction of the Norfolk dam, to be built on North Fork of the White river in Baxter county, also were reported on by Major Griffiths.

The government village, being erected at Mountain Home for occupancy by employees of the engineer office engaged on the Norfolk project, is 37 per cent complete and is expected to be finished by March 1.

The access road to the Norfolk dam site is 17 per cent complete with the finishing date scheduled for February and the construction railroad to the site is 10 per cent complete with the finishing date scheduled for March 9.

Maumelle Valley's Plight Told

Gazette 12-11-40

The channel of the Maumelle river in northwestern Pulaski county should be straightened, widened and cleaned to alleviate distressing flood and health conditions, Lt. Col. Stanley L. Scott of the Little Rock District, United States Engineers, was told at a meeting of landowners and Joseph T. Robinson school yesterday morning. Colonel Scott arranged the meeting to hear wishes and opinions of the farmers and landowners of the Rempel dam, it was necessary to make open the gates at the latter dam to keep water from going over the

Flood Control Hearing Is Scheduled

12-1-40

A public hearing to determine the current advisability of any improvement for flood control on Maumelle river and its tributaries will be held at the Joseph T. Robinson school, on Highway No. 10, at 10 a. m., December 10, it was announced yesterday by Lieut. Col. S. L. Scott of the U. S. district engineers. The hearing will be held at the request of the committee on flood control of the House of Representatives, Colonel Scott said. Interested

the Pulaski county Equalization Board and owners of a farm in the valley, said assessed values of the land near the Maumelle had been reduced to \$5 an acre. He said it formerly was a rich farming section and the land brought high prices.

He pointed out that the vicinity had not shared in any flood control or drainage projects. Dr. Lamb and Dr. Glen M. Holmes said "the valley is one of the worst sections of Pulaski county so far as malaria is concerned."

Mr. Cowsert said the river channel is filling up with timbers and silt and that many pools of stagnant water remain for weeks after each overflow.

S. E. Junkin, operator of a grocery and filling station on Highway 10, who owns land in the valley, said the river overflows from three to five times each year. He said he had been unable to raise a crop on part of the land since the 1927 flood. He suggested work at the mouth of the river to prevent flood waters from the Arkansas backing up into it.

Mr. Terry Supports Appeals. Congressman D. D. Terry of Little Rock who introduced the resolution in Congress to provide for the study of the watershed, told of the difficulties of farmers in the valley. He said improvements would not only be "a Godsend" to farmers and livestock raisers, but would improve recreational facilities.

He said the valley has great recreational possibilities if the river could be controlled. He told of the development of the livestock industry in the section, but said it has been handicapped seriously by floods. Some livestock raisers have been put out of business by the floods, he said.

Other Speakers Heard. C. S. Christian of Little Rock and W. C. McClure of Camden, members of the state Flood Control Commission, expressed belief that it was a worthwhile flood control project. They said channel improvement probably would solve the problem.

J. B. Colvin of Perry county, advocated upstream as a solution. He said this would add much to the recreation values of the valley as well as control floods.

Recommendations To Congress. Colonel Scott said his recommendations cannot be made public until they are submitted to Congress. His recommendations will be studied first by the chief of army engineers, he said.

TO ATTEND CONVENTION

Gazette 12-15-40

C. S. Christian, Arkansas Flood Control Commission engineer, will attend a meeting of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association at New Orleans, La., Wednesday.

ABANDONING OF EUDORA FLOOD PROJECT URGED

Gazette 12-19-40

New Orleans, Dec. 18 (AP).—The proposed \$103,000,000 Eudora floodway project should be abandoned and the money used to improve the present levee system between the mouths of the Arkansas and Red rivers, it was recommended in a resolution adopted by the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association here today.

Increase in height and strength of the levee in that sector "would provide adequate protection for all floods," Senator John H. Overton, association president, who appointed the committee which presented the resolution, said.

"The 13 cutoffs built in that section of the river and the two more under construction, have shortened the distance of the river by one-third, increased the speed of flow and lowered the crest, and I believe a three-foot raise in the levee height would solve the flood problem for that area," Senator Overton said.

General Tyler Proposes Three Alternatives.

Three possible plans which might be substituted for the Eudora floodway project were presented by Brig. Gen. Max C. Tyler, Vicksburg, Miss., president of the Mississippi

River Commission. The first plan called for a Eudora extension floodway, the second for a narrow uncleaned Eudora floodway and the third only for the strengthening of the levee system in the sector.

"The \$103,000,000 allotted the original Eudora plan could build any of the projects I have outlined today," the general said.

Questioned as to whether the plans were all practical solutions to the problem, General Tyler said, "Yes, in my judgment."

Gen. Thomas M. Robbins, assistant chief of the United States Army Engineers, assured the meeting that the army engineers, while engaged in national defense work, did not propose to let up on flood control and harbor work.

Judge Critical of Slowness Of Federal Authorities.

Gazette 12-19-40

Slowness of federal agencies in paying persons whose land has been condemned for flood control purposes was criticized by Judge Trimble in United States District Court yesterday. He was referring to failure of the government to provide funds to cover government costs in a suit involving condemnation of 594.03 acres in Desha county, as part of the Mississippi river flood control project.

The criticism came during a hearing on a citation against Maj. Samuel D. Sturgis Jr., Vicksburg district engineer, calling on him to explain why he had not complied with a previous court order to deposit \$25,000 in the court registry to cover land and court costs.

"This condemnation suit has been pending three years," Judge Trimble said. "The court, to expedite matters, has appointed a master who has spent 18 months on the case. The master has made his report and landowners have agreed that if the government would advance costs for the master, commissioners, and reporter, and afterward it is held that this expense is not chargeable to the government, it could be deducted out of whatever allowance is made to landowners for the value of the land."

"The district attorney advises he has reported this to Washington and has recommended that the money be paid into the registry so an arm of the court could discharge its duty, but this recommendation has not been complied with."

"I think the attorney general's office has been derelict in not sending the money here and I want to know whether they are going to do it."

Citation Quashed. Judge Trimble granted a motion to quash the citation against Major Sturgis, on the grounds that he was not a resident of Arkansas. Major Sturgis was in court. A motion by the government to rescind the order to deposit the \$25,000 was also granted.

The commissioners, E. S. Terral of Tillar, G. A. Brock of McGehee, and O. O. Kemp of Rohrer, were granted \$200 each for 10 days service in adjusting the purchase price and damages to the land. John W. Newman of Little Rock, master, was allowed \$2,000 and \$280.20 was granted to Walter Powell of Little Rock, reporter.

Another Hearing January 3. January 3 was set as the date for another hearing on the findings of the commissioners as to the value of the land and damages suffered from flood control work.

Condemnation proceedings were filed in April, 1937, when the government acquired land on Caulk's Neck to make a cut-off to straighten the river. Among the defendants are the heirs of the B. O. Zellner estate, the Arkamiss Lumber Company, and the Chicago Mill and Lumber Company.

Following the filing of the original petition, the Zellner estate did not file its answer until June 10, 1938. The substituted answer of the Arkamiss Lumber Company was filed July 30, 1938, while the Chicago company did not file its substitute answer until March 28, 1939.

Norfolk To Continue As 'A Nice Town'

Special to the Gazette 12-22-40
Norfolk, Dec. 21. — Clank of power shovels, the noisy exhausts of heavy tractors, rattling gravel trucks, and the spluttering of a big dragline down on the gravel bar at the junction of the Northfork and White rivers, are producing a melody that has put new life into this town. All these industrial musical notes new to the town, are coming from machines used in the construction of a railroad and a heavy duty highway, that lead from this place to the Northfork dam-site, about four miles up Northfork river.

Carpenters are erecting new buildings here, small business men are hunting locations for all kinds of business, and many new people are moving in as fast as they can find quarters. After supper, music machines and radios blare from every cafe and recreation hall. All this bustle and stir arises from the fact that Norfolk will be the freight base for all incoming material that will be used in the construction of the Northfork dam. Dozens of new faces appear on the streets every day. You stop to pass a few words with a stranger. "Where you from?" The man smiles. "I'm from Disney, Okla."

The Grand river dam at Disney, Okla., was completed early this year, and many citizens of Disney are moving into this place and other sections for Baxter county.

Three new townsites laid out, New Railroad Building.

Three new townsites have been laid off at the dam-site. They are Hutchesonville and Spencer, on the west side of the Northfork river, and Jordon on the east side. Hutchesonville is being promoted by Jack Bonner and Dr. Vero Hutcheson, both heirs of the late S. J. Hutcheson, a pioneer resident of this section. All three of the new townsites are within five miles of Norfolk.

The new railroad under construction to the dam-site, leaves the White River Division of the Missouri Pacific, about a quarter-mile above Norfolk, on the east side of the river. It dips down a slight grade, hits the river grade and holds to it to the dam-site. The new heavy duty highway leaves State Highway No. 5 about a half-mile above town, creeps up a sloping ridge, follows the ridge to a point just above the dam-site and dips down to the site. It is expected that a highway connecting Baxter and Izard counties will be built over the top of the dam.

Citizens Taken by Surprise As Boom Breaks.

The boom broke on the town so quickly that it has been difficult for the town administration to keep pace with needed improvements, because of lack of finances. Plans are under way to take care of that with the usual town and city taxes next year. The town is on a new REA line, and has splendid 24-hour service, but no water system. Mayor Dave Torrance says plans are under way for a WPA system, which will probably be installed in the spring. Until then, wells, cisterns, and individual water plants furnish the water supply.

Advocates of 'Nice Town' Have Won Out.

The first big argument as to whether the town would be a nice, docile, friendly little town, or a wide open hell-roaring place, came to a head this week. Slot machines or no slot machines. The nos won the argument. Prosecuting Attorney Bob Woods of Calico Rock appeared on the scene Wednesday, picked up all the machines, battered most of them to pieces and confiscated the money. Seven machines yielded more than \$80. Fifty dollars was turned over to Ward Hackler, county treasurer, in accordance with the law, and the remainder went for legal fees.

Mrs. Mattie Hogan, wife of W. M. Hogan, first mayor of Norfolk, led the battle against the machines. "There is no use in having laws unless we abide by them," she says. They are gambling machines with

NO HELL-ROARIN' HERE



Top: Main street of Norfolk.

Lower left: Mrs. Mattie L. Hogan, who led the successful fight against slot machines. Lower right: Mayor Dave Torrance, who says: "We're going to have a nice town or none."

the odds overwhelmingly in favor of the machines. I don't think it is right. Boys from the country who have done a hard day's work come in here, thinking they will win, and lose all they have. We're not going to have such things in our town."

Many others concur with Mrs. Hogan. Mayor Dave Torrance says: "We're going to have a nice town if we have any. This town has always been a nice, peaceable town and we're going to keep it that way."

Members of the City Council interviewed, concurred in the idea of keeping it 'a nice town.'

Norfolk One of Oldest Towns On Upper White River.

Norfolk is one of the oldest towns in the upper White river country. It is located at the junction of the White and Northfork rivers. It was first established as a settlement early in 1800. Maj. Jacob Wolf, one of the first Indian agents in north Arkansas, located there and opened a trading post. He built a large two-story log house that faced the junction of the two rivers. This house still stands, in good repair. It is the oldest residence in the upper White river valley. A few years ago citizens of Northfork, assisted by residents of surrounding towns and territory, purchased the property on which the old house stands, repaired and rehabilitated it, and converted it into a memorial for the Wolf family. During the first few years after the house was built, one of the first-floor rooms was used as the Izard county courthouse. Izard county at that time included what are now the counties of Izard, Baxter, Marion and Stone counties. James Houston, brother of the illustrious Col. Sam Houston, was the first clerk of Izard county, and his office was in the old

Wolf house.

During this period, Norfolk, then named Liberty, had its first boom. It was the county seat. It was also the end of the Old Salt Trail that meandered down through the Ozarks, from Greene county, Missouri. Manufactured goods, salt and the other few necessities of that period, were shipped up the Mississippi river from New Orleans, and up White river to Liberty. For many years it was a distributing point for a large inland territory.

New Athens, a new settlement, sprang up about 20 miles below Liberty, and gained the county seat by a hard fight. Liberty held its own as a trading point, however, and the only evidence left of New Athens now are a few old stone chimneys and stone doorsteps.

When the White River Division of the Missouri Pacific Lines was constructed in 1906, the name of the town was changed to Deveraux, in honor of one of the railroad engineers. Shortly after that, W. M. Hogan, a former sheriff of Randolph county, who lived at Pocahontas, came to the then town of Deveraux and started a tie and mercantile business. He didn't like the name of Deveraux and induced the railroad and the Postoffice Department to change the name to Norfolk. Later he led a successful fight to incorporate the town, and wrote the town laws. His widow led the fight against the slot machines. Pat Hogan, one of his sons, is president of the North Little Rock Stockyards.

A few years later, S. J. Hutcheson, then a farmer and landowner of the section, moved into Norfolk with his family and opened a store. Later he built a gin, and the town moved forward in a small way. Mayor Dave Torrance also was an early citizen of the town. Sam South, an early pioneer from Kentucky, also lived there. His son, Jerry South, who became one of

north Arkansas's leading attorneys, was reared there.

Town Beautifully Located In Midst of High Hills.

Norfolk is beautifully located in the heart of the high hills. It sits in the fork of the White and Northfork rivers. Matney mountain, one of the highest in the region, smiles down on it from the south side of the river. Across White river one immediately plunges into the deep, primitive woods and mountains of the Ozark National Forest, which is becoming one of the most popular recreation grounds of the Upper South.

It was easy to see, after interviewing most of the business men and women of the town, and the mayor and council, that while Norfolk is a boom town, and probably will boom much louder than it now is booming, it is going to continue to be a nice town. Not a wide open, tough, crap shootin' tar paper shanty town.

Flood Control Conference Called

Special to the Gazette. 12-22-40

Hot Springs, Dec. 21.—Experts on flood control and conservation of water and soil resources from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma will meet here January 10-11. The opening session will be known as "Arkansas Day," and will be called to order by R. E. Overman, Little Rock, chairman of the Arkansas State Flood Control Commission.

John L. McClellan, Camden, former congressman, will be general chairman for the remainder of the sessions. Pat M. Neff, Waco, Tex., president of Baylor University, president of the Texas Watersheds Association, and former governor, will address the convention the first afternoon. Other speakers will include Wade O. Martin, chairman of the Louisiana Flood Control Commission, and J. H. McDonald, Muskogee, Okla.

To Inspect Dam Site.

Lamar Williamson, Monticello, will be toastmaster at a banquet the night of January 10. Governor-elect Homer M. Adkins and Gov. Sam H. Jones, Louisiana, have been invited.

Col. C. S. Lynch, executive vice president and chief engineer of the Arkansas Power and Light Company, will head a motorcade to the site of the Blakely dam on the upper Ouachita river, 20 miles north of Hot Springs, Saturday morning. Building of the Blakely dam and the part it is expected to play in flood control will be discussed in the afternoon.

At the final session the organization, with permanent officers, is expected to be completed. Speakers that day will include C. S. Clark, Austin, Tex., chairman of the Texas State Board of Water Engineers, and John M. Fouts, Dallas and Fort Worth, general manager of the Trinity Improvement Association.

Four-States Flood Meet January 10

Hot Springs—Not less than 300 delegates, including some of the leading flood control and conservation experts of the Southwest, are expected to attend the four-state convention at the Arlington hotel here January 10 and 11 to discuss the flood control, soil and water conservation in the Southwest.

One of the primary objectives, according to W. C. McClure, Camden, secretary of the Arkansas State Flood Control Commission, is to discuss ways and means of organizing a four-state compact embracing volunteer citizens in all walks of life from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma.

R. E. Overman, Little Rock, chairman of the State Flood Control Commission, will preside over the morning session January 10, "Arkansas Day."

The four-state sessions will formally open that afternoon with John L. McClellan of Camden, former Arkansas congressman, serving as general chairman. Other speakers on the afternoon program will include Pat M. Neff, Waco, Tex., president of Baylor University, president of the Texas Watershed Association, and former governor of Texas; Conrad Glover, Sheridan, Ark.; Wade O. Martin, chairman of the Louisiana Flood Control and Water Conservation Committee.

A banquet will be held Friday night at the Arlington with Lamar Williamson, Monticello, toastmaster. Governor-elect Homer Adkins of Arkansas, and Governor Sam H. Jones of Louisiana are expected.

Saturday morning Col. C. S. Lynch, executive vice president of the Arkansas Power & Light Company, is scheduled to head a motorcade to the Blakely dam site on the Ouachita river north of Hot Springs.

Speakers on the Saturday program will include: C. S. Clark, Austin, Tex., chairman of the Texas State Board of Water Engineers, and John M. Fouts of Dallas and Fort Worth, general manager of the Trinity Improvement Association. It was Fouts who first suggested the four-states meeting. Adjournment will follow an open forum.

Invitations have been extended the eight senators and 44 congressmen representing the four states in Washington.

Members of the U. S. Engineer Corps of Little Rock, Tulsa, Vicksburg, New Orleans and Houston also are expected to be represented, while the Farm Bureau, the National Grange, and other groups representing organized agriculture have been extended invitations.

State and U. S. forest officials are also expected.

New Flood Plan Would Please Many

Gazette 12-22-40

A recommendation of the Mississippi River Flood Control Association that the proposed Eudora

floodway in southeast Arkansas be abandoned and the levees raised to a height capable of withstanding any "superflood" would "solve the problems of southeast Arkansas residents" who have vigorously opposed the plan, C. S. Christian, chief engineer of the state Flood Control Commission, said yesterday. Mr. Christian attended a meeting of the association in New Orleans last week.

The association proposed that levees, especially on the Arkansas and Louisiana side, be raised a minimum of three feet to bring them to height of levees in Mississippi. These enlarged levee could withstand a flood stage even higher than those of 1927 and 1937, the association said.

Under the floodway plan, flood waters from the Mississippi would be diverted into an area 125 miles long and 15 miles wide, including parts of Desha and Chicot counties, to lower the crest on the river. Property owners filed suits for damages totaling \$50,000,000, claiming the value of their property had been injured by the flood control program. In a test suit, the Supreme Court reversed a lower court award of damages to one of the property owners, holding the proposed floodway had benefited the property.

Saving Would Be Effected.

Mr. Christian said Congress authorized the expenditure of \$103,000,000 on the proposed floodway. Raising the levees would cost only \$40,000,000, leaving \$63,000,000 to be used to control backwater in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, he said.

The construction of 13 cut-offs between the mouth of the Arkansas and Red rivers had shortened the channel of the Mississippi river 113 miles, speeding the flow of the current. In flood time, this tends to lower the crest, he said, doing away with the need for the floodway.

Mr. Christian said Senator Overton of Louisiana, president of the association, would introduce a bill in Congress next year to abandon the floodway and substitute the enlarged levees as the best method of controlling Mississippi river floods.

Blakely Dam In AVA Is Proposal

Gazette 12-22-40

Revocation of the Arkansas Power and Light Company's license to build Blakely mountain dam on Ouachita river in Garland county and inclusion of the Blakely dam in a proposed Arkansas Valley Authority, is asked by the Montgomery County Lions Club at a meeting Thursday night, it was announced yesterday.

With one dissenting vote the club adopted a resolution asking the Federal Power Commission to revoke the license and to "exert all powers at its disposal to bring about immediate construction" of the dam.

Congressman Clyde T. Ellis of Bentonville, who is drafting a bill to create an Arkansas Valley Authority, is said to favor including Blakely dam.

State Representative Fred Jones introduced the resolution, which was seconded by John Beavers, cashier of the Bank of Montgomery county. L. J. Pinkerton is club president.

Early Development Sought.

The resolution said: "The people of Arkansas in general and of Montgomery county in particular feel that the early development of the Ouachita area will greatly improve their economic welfare by encouraging industry to take advantage of the electrical energy produced by such development as well as the great coal, timber and oil resources of the area."

It was contended that: Great need exists for flood control on the Red, Arkansas, White and Ouachita rivers.

Those rivers could be made navigable by proper flood control and thereby provide cheap water transportation for a great agricultural and manufacturing area.

Water impounded could be used for irrigation of rice fields and to generate electrical energy.

The federal government owns much of the Ouachita area, which is becoming rapidly a "great recreational area."

The area has military importance because of its strategic, inland location.