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ANNOUNCEMENT

COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING LEAGUE

INCLUDING REVIEW OF LAST SEASON, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY
AND ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTION FOR 1927-'28

BOUDLER DAM PROJECT



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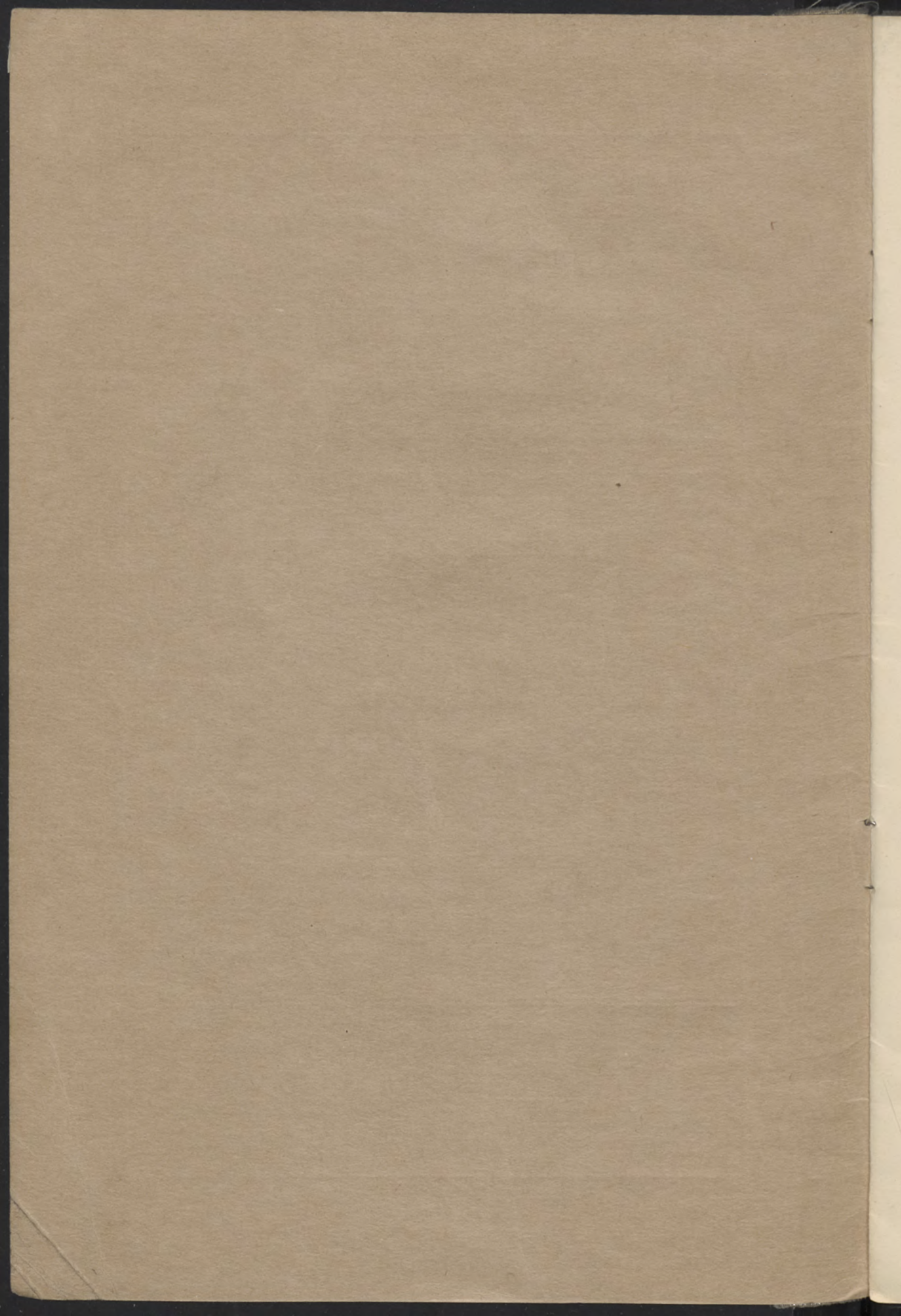
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Office of Secretary-Treasurer

Colorado High School Debating League

DEBATE BULLETIN NO. 1

BOULDER, COLORADO, OCTOBER, 1927



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Secretary-Treasurer
Colorado High School Debating League

University Extension Division
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado
1927

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Boulder, Colorado

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 1927-'28

WITH GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

By RUSSELL D. NILES, Secretary-Treasurer
Colorado High School Debating League

THE NEW SEASON

The thirteenth year of the Colorado High School Debating League will be marked by several innovations. A question has been chosen which will have a strong local interest, although it will not yield to the usual imitation-of-college methods. The elimination plan which insured the average team of only two contests has been abandoned in favor of the round-robin system, which will permit each member school to debate at least six times—without traveling out of its own locality! And the University of Colorado has given us an appropriation which will enable us to give better service to the members of the League. A printed bulletin, for instance, has been made possible.

IMPORTANT DATES

All high schools should send to the Secretary-Treasurer at the University the annual membership fee of \$3.00 before November 20. The organization of the districts and divisions will be completed by December 15, and member schools will be notified. The district championships will be determined by the middle of April, and the semi-final and final debates will be held in Boulder early in May.

THE QUESTION FOR DEBATE

The question as selected by the Executive Committee (and slightly modified at the recommendation of Colorado River Conference officials) is: "Resolved, That the United States Government should construct and maintain the Boulder Dam Project according to the current Swing-Johnson Bill." The word "current" was inserted because it would be absurd to debate an obsolete measure. The fundamentals of the Bill will not be changed, in all probability, during the coming session. It is true that cases will have to be adjusted in accordance with minor amendments and changes, but this will be valuable discipline, and will keep the question fresh and current throughout the season.

After all, this is not the type of question which will stand the stereotyped methods of approach. It is complex, intricate, and although it is a question which has long been before the public, is essentially fresh and plastic. A strong and lively case can fairly be made for each side, but some of the venerable devices may not find a place. If students do not analyze this question carefully,

they will never keep to the fundamentals. Never was there a territory which afforded so many alluring byways and cross-paths, and was infested with so many misleading signposts which pointed out old detours through adjoining meadows. But the figure holds for most public questions—before debater's manuals and commercial agencies reduce them to rigid and lifeless issues.

MATERIAL

Mr. Hubert P. Wolfe, of the Business and Government Research Bureau of the Extension Division, who is making an exhaustive and impartial study of the Colorado River question for the University, has written a few introductory comments for us which are printed on following pages. The bibliography was prepared by Miss Amie-Louise Bishop, Extension Librarian, and is very complete and up-to-date. We have secured many copies of the bill and all standard pamphlets, and we shall send them at once to all schools on receipt of their membership dues. By the way, please remember that the pamphlets give only one side of the case, although they are accurate and trustworthy.

CONCERNING JUDGES

When judges are being instructed, why wouldn't it be sensible to warn them that in a question such as this one, neither side can have a conclusive case? Indeed, the team which takes a fair attitude on any public question can never assume that there is only one right side. High school debating is an exercise to develop boys and girls, not to add anything to the realm of known truth, to accomplish any reforms, nor even to influence the passage of this Bill. The coach should have two objects: to give his students training, and to give his audience a fair deal—for we must always have audiences, current practice to the contrary notwithstanding. If judges would reward the debaters who have the right attitude, who make a spirited case, but who have proper humility and a sense of fair play, there would be fewer flush-faced, impertinent, and intolerant speakers.

REVIEW OF 1926-1927 SEASON

Sixty high schools were members of the Colorado High School Debating League last year. Listed according to districts, they were:

CENTRAL DISTRICT

E. N. Freeman, Wheatridge, Director
Grover Hooker, Arvada, Vice-Director

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Burlington H. S. | 7. Boulder Preparatory School |
| 2. Erie H. S. | 8. Flagler H. S. |
| 3. Aurora H. S. | 9. Arvada H. S. |
| 4. Wheatridge H. S. | 10. Brighton H. S. |
| 5. Littleton H. S. | 11. Englewood H. S. |
| 6. Limon H. S. | 12. Simla H. S. |

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

E. J. Knight, Lamar, Director

H. L. McGinnis, Buena Vista, Vice-Director

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Eads H. S. | 10. Cheyenne County H. S. |
| 2. Leadville H. S. | Cheyenne Wells |
| 3. Rio Grande County H. S. | 11. Antonito H. S. |
| Monte Vista | 12. Buena Vista H. S. |
| 4. Arapahoe H. S. | 13. La Junta H. S. |
| 5. Rocky Ford H. S. | 14. Hartman H. S. |
| 6. Kit Carson H. S. | 15. Lamar H. S. |
| 7. Breckenridge H. S. | 16. Granada H. S. |
| 8. Sargent H. S. (Monte Vista) | 17. Manassa H. S. |
| 9. Bent County H. S. | 18. Alamosa H. S. |
| Las Animas | 19. Fountain H. S. |

NORTHERN DISTRICT

W. E. Baker, Fort Morgan, Director

Paul Gillespie, Greeley, Vice-Director

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Eaton H. S. | 8. Wiggins H. S. |
| 2. Fort Morgan H. S. | 9. Fort Collins H. S. |
| 3. Yuma County H. S. (Wray) | 10. New Raymer H. S. |
| 4. Yuma H. S. (Yuma) | 11. Longmont H. S. |
| 5. Logan County H. S. | 12. Loveland H. S. |
| Sterling | 13. Greeley H. S. |
| 6. Fleming H. S. | 14. Crook H. S. |
| 7. Sedgwick County H. S. | 15. Windsor H. S. |
| Julesburg | 16. Kersey H. S. |

WESTERN DISTRICT

V. M. Rogers, Gunnison, Director

W. G. Hiron, Grand Junction, Vice-Director

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kremmling H. S. | 7. Hotchkiss H. S. |
| 2. Grand Junction H. S. | 8. Mesa H. S. |
| 3. Cortez H. S. | 9. Paoia H. S. |
| 4. Gunnison H. S. | 10. Delta H. S. |
| 5. Appleton H. S. | 11. Collbran H. S. |
| (Grand Junction) | 12. Fruita H. S. |
| 6. Montrose County H. S. | 13. Cedaredge H. S. |
| Montrose | |

Rocky Ford High School won the championship of the Southern District, and defeated Englewood High School, winner of the Central District, in the semi-finals. In the other semi-final contest, Fort Morgan High School, winner of the Northern District, defeated Hotchkiss High School, winner of the Western District. Both of these contests were held in Boulder on the same night, May 13.

The State Championship was determined the next night in the new University Lecture Theater on the campus when Rocky, Ford High School met Fort Morgan High School. It was an excellent debate, but the judges were unanimous for Fort Morgan. The members of the championship team were Merlin Spencer, Ruth Scheidigger, and Lora Hunsaker; and each received a gold medal awarded by the University. Rocky Ford High School received a silver loving cup as a permanent trophy for second place, and Fort Morgan received a larger trophy cup, and possession of the famous John A. Hunter trophy for one year.

HISTORY AND ANALYSIS OF THE BOULDER DAM PROJECT

By HUBERT P. WOLFE
Bureau of Business and Government Research
University of Colorado

Columbus discovered America in 1492. In less than forty years, about 1530, the Spaniards in Mexico heard of the Colorado River. Indian legends turned them to explorations in search of the "Cities of Gold". In 1859, Francisco de Ullon sailed from Acapulco north to the Sea of Cortes, now known as the Gulf of California, to the mouth of the Colorado. One year later, Hernando de Alarcon sailed to the head of the Sea of Cortes and entered the great river. He wrote: ". . . where we found a very mighty river which came with so great fury of a stream that we could hardly sail against it." Thus speaks the record of white man's first sight of the Colorado River, so well known today.

During the next two hundred and thirty years only six recorded explorers dared this region. Andrew Henry in 1808 explored the head waters of the Colorado River in what is now the States of Colorado and Wyoming. In 1825 to 1839, we find that famous American, Kit Carson, trapping and exploring the upper river. From 1847 to 1852, the Mormons settled in the great Salt Lake Valley. And so on have the explorations blazed the way for home-seekers to migrate into this great valley.

People have pushed westward into the valley to develop homes and farms by the aid of this great river, which rises in the snowy mountains of Colorado and Wyoming. As it tumbles down from an altitude of 14,000 feet above sea level it meets the Green River at the 3,900 level, and from here on the rushing, grinding torrents of water have carved canyons which become deeper and deeper until the river reaches and enters the famous Grand Canyon of Arizona, where the canyon walls rise from five to six thousand feet up to the surrounding plateau. As it leaves the Grand Canyon, the river enters a section which, while restricted by short canyons, has numerous small valleys and open spaces, and it finally emerges into the low flat plains near its delta. It is in these valleys and on this plain, anterior to the delta, where the water of the river is the very life blood of these people who have learned the value this land holds for them if the waters of the Colorado can be controlled.

As the water comes rushing down this steep and narrow channel, it picks up tremendous quantities of silt. This silt has formed a huge delta at the river's mouth, and at the same time has raised the bed of the river until now in the lower regions it is considerably above the level of the surrounding country. Were it not for the levees built through this region, the river would

over-flow its banks in flood time, and flood the surrounding country. Also below the canyon walls are a number of smaller valley lands adjacent to the river which, were it not for the danger of inundation during flood periods, would be susceptible to irrigation.

The river covers from eight to twenty-seven million acre feet of water per year. It is very changeable at the different seasons, sometimes coming down in flood amount, and at other times running so low as to be of little value. All these things have suggested the marvelous advantage to be gained by storing the water and giving it out as needed. This will not only protect the lower valleys and plains from flood menace, and make possible the irrigation of land with equal water the year around, but it will also store water for domestic use by large cities; and further, the tremendous fall in the river will provide great quantities of electric power.

The realization that the great Southwest could not grow and find its entitled place in the scheme of things without flood control, silt control, and water storage for irrigation and domestic uses, has had its result in the taking of definite steps by the people in the lower basin of the river toward securing such development of the lower Colorado River.

In California and Arizona lie the lands in most danger of the flood menace. These same lands are at the same time extremely fertile, awaiting only the development of irrigation. In California lies the Imperial Valley just north of the Mexican line and west of the Colorado River. For a number of years this valley has received water from the Colorado River by a canal which, because of high sand dunes rising between the river and the valley on the American side of the boundary line, follows an old channel of the river down into Mexico, then turning north, recrosses the border back into the Imperial Valley. For this privilege the Mexican Government has received one half of the water diverted, without cost to Mexico. From this condition has sprung the idea of the All-American Canal which will cut through the sand dunes and travel directly to the Imperial Valley entirely within the United States. The advantages of this plan are manifest.

In order that the flow of the River may be constant, that the flood waters rushing down during certain seasons of the year may be caught and held for use during other seasons, and that the irrigation canals may be free from silt, there has developed the need of a storage dam, and in the future probably storage dams. These needs have been recognized and definite plans have been made to secure them.

As the urge for this development became stronger, the states at the upper end of the river realized that soon these faster developing states to the south would have established rights to great quantities of water flowing down the Colorado River. The law of water rights in these seven western states, California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, is known

as the law of Priority. Because this law in substance is in favor of the first or oldest user or appropriator, this situation was dangerous to the future development of the upper basin. If the lower states established rights to the entire water of the Colorado River by putting it to a beneficial use previous to such appropriation on the upper river, from which more than eighty percent of the water comes, the law would hold that they had a right to it and that these upper river states could not interfere with such rights. Thus our lands would go dry and our cities would have to look elsewhere for drinking water—unless the prior appropriators gave us a right to use some of the water our mountains furnish.

This condition was realized by Delph E. Carpenter, interstate water commissioner for Colorado, who is called the "daddy" of the Colorado River compact. A movement was put on foot to secure the water rights of each basin. The plan was for the seven interested states to draw up a compact between themselves dividing the waters of the river. Consent to do this, or rather the consent for states to enter into an agreement, had to be obtained from Congress, and on August 19, 1921, Congress passed an act (Public Law No. 56) to permit a compact or agreement between the states of the Colorado River Basin, "respecting the disposition and apportionment of the waters of the Colorado River and for other purposes." Commissioners were appointed by each of the seven states, and Secretary Herbert Hoover was appointed by President Harding to represent the United States on the Colorado River Commission.

In January 1922, the commission held its first meeting at Washington under the chairmanship of Secretary Hoover. Meetings were held from time to time until on November 24, 1922, a compact was signed at Santa Fe, New Mexico, by the seven representatives of the States and approved by Secretary Hoover. This compact did not apportion the waters as between states, but divided the water between the upper and lower basins, the upper basin comprising New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, the lower basin California, Arizona, and Nevada.

In the main this compact allocates 7,500,000 acre-feet of water to the upper basin and 8,500,000 acre-feet to the lower basin. Out of the surplus the demands of Mexico are to be satisfied and the over-surplus is to be equally divided between the basins. At the end of forty years any surplus unused by any state is to be reapportioned. This water was given in perpetuity in order that there would always be that much water available for use in each basin.

The commissioners were not empowered to take final action; so the compact was taken back to the respective state legislatures for ratification. It was promptly ratified by all the states except Arizona. Its rejection by Arizona prevented it from going into effect. In 1925 a six-state compact was proposed whereby the original compact was to become effective as between the six ratifying states, leaving the way open for Arizona to come in when she

got ready. The six-state compact was unconditionally ratified by the four upper states and Nevada. California ratified with the condition that her ratification would not take effect until Congress passed the Swing-Johnson bill, which provides for the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal. Then in January, 1927, Utah withdrew her ratification of the six-state compact, leaving the states without the faintest pretense of a compact.

Since then an effort has been made by the upper basin states to bring about an agreement in the lower basin relative to the development needs in California, Arizona and Nevada. Such an agreement is sought in order that the original Santa Fe compact could be unconditionally ratified by the entire seven states before any development of the River is started.

The bill now known as the Swing-Johnson bill was first introduced in the House on April 25, 1922, by Representative Swing of California. This bill (H.R. 11449) proposed to carry out the recommendations of the Davis report (S. Doc. No. 142). The bill was recommended to the House Committee on irrigation.

On December 10, 1923, Representative Swing again introduced his bill (H.R. 2903) for the protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin. The companion bill (S. 727) was introduced the same day in the Senate by Mr. Johnson of California. Since then extensive hearings have been held in both the Senate and the House. Committee on irrigation have held hearings, both in Washington and throughout the Southwest. During the last session of Congress a bitter fight resulted in no action on the measure, and it goes without saying that this next session of Congress will reopen the fight.

The Swing-Johnson bill in the main proposes: to build a high dam near Boulder Canyon where the Colorado River forms the boundary line between Arizona and Nevada, intended for flood control, regulation of the river, and storage of water for irrigation and domestic uses; to construct and maintain an All-American Canal; and to construct and maintain power plants at the dam for the generation of hydro-electric energy.

The bill is predicated on the Colorado River compact when ratified by six states. This is because Arizona has consistently found it impossible to accept the compact and because of California's conditional ratification. No work shall be started on the proposed project until six states have ratified the compact.

The plan of financing is to create a "Colorado River Dam Fund". The secretary of the treasury is authorized to make advancements to this fund from time to time not to exceed \$125,000,000 which is to return a four percent interest rate to the treasury. All revenues from the sale of water and power shall be made to this fund, and all expenditures shall be made from it.

Another stipulation is that before work shall commence on the project, the Secretary of the Interior is required to secure

contracts for the sale of water for irrigation and domestic uses, and for the delivery of electric energy. These contracts shall in the aggregate insure payment of all expenses of operation and maintenance of the works, and the repayment within fifty years of all the amounts by the government, with interest.

The people of the Imperial Valley are supposed to pay for the All-American Canal on the same basis as the Government Reclamation projects.

The bill has been criticized from many angles, but this is not a proper place for the advancement of either side.

The general questions of the engineering phase of the project have been fairly well agreed upon. Studies and reports on the Colorado River have been made by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation, Federal Power Commissions, state engineers, and private engineers. Of course, we find these engineers disagreeing on some points, as even lawyers will. However, they are in accord that the development of the lower Colorado is practical and imperative, but do not agree upon the Boulder Canyon dam site, the size of the dam, or the cost of the project. These are moot questions and important ones.

There are schools of thought which feel that the government is over-stepping its duties and power in its proposal to take the resources from the seven states, because, they agree, the river is under state control and the use of the water belongs to the states. Thus the hardy question of states' rights has been injected into the question.

The respective states have long been debating their needs and rights to certain quantities of water (this has been more violent in some states than in others) but this question is not pertinent to the Swing-Johnson bill **except** in that any bill proportioning the development of the river system to any degree should be predicated upon a compact substantially similar to the Santa Fe compact of 1922. Such an agreement is imperative for the future development in all the River Basin states. The necessity of a compact protecting the future water needs of the upper basin states has been previously pointed out in this article. The states of the upper basin are the slower in development, but their rights shall not be taken away from them by prior appropriators. The time may be fifty years away, but certainly sometime these states of Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado are going to need water from that River for irrigation and domestic uses and water to develop hydro-electric power. Any form of legislation which proposes to take that right of future benefits away or which does not adequately protect those rights, should meet with firm objection on the part of this upper basin.

The states of the upper basin realize, as does everyone else, that development of the Colorado River is necessary, but the question of HOW it shall be developed is decidedly open to debate.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

69th Congress, First Session, Vol. 67.

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- Letter from the Secretary of the Interior relative to the proposed construction of, 2098, January 15, 1926.
- Letter from Fred T. Colter remonstrating against construction of, 2123, January 15, 1926.
- Remarks in Senate on bill (S. 3331) relating to, 8139, April 24, 1926.
- Vote taken in the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation in Senate on bill relating to, 8020, April 23, 1926.
- Boulder Dam.
- Editorial appearing in the *Arizona Daily Gazette* relative to, 8794, May 6, 1926.
- Excerpt from testimony of the Secretary of the Interior relative to, 4905, March 3, 1926.
- Order of Senate to print a discussion by Fred T. Colter of the bill (S. 3414) relating to (S. Doc. 113), 9587, May 18, 1926.
- Colorado River.
- Bill granting the consent of Congress to compacts between the States of Colorado and Utah with respect to the division of the waters of Colorado River (see bill H. R. 12698).
- Joint resolution to suspend the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission to issue licenses on (see S. J. Res. 4).
- Letter from the Governor of Arizona relative to the development of, 3662, February 10, 1926; 7843, April 20, 1926.

- Letters and data from Fred T. Colter concerning development of, 2123, January 15, 1926.
- Letter from Reuel L. Olson relating to the history of, 11612, June 19, 1926.
- Memorial of Legislature of Arizona relative to development of, 468, December 8, 1925.
- Order of Senate to print a discussion by Fred T. Colter of the bill (S. 3414) relating to the development of, (S. Doc. 113), 9587, May 18, 1926.
- Petition of certain members of the Senate of California urging enactment of the so-called Swing-Johnson bill relative to the use of waters of, 3002, January 30, 1926.
- Plan of development of, 3136, February 2, 1926.
- Remarks delivered by Representative Hayden before the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation in House on the subject of the development of, 4092, February 16, 1926.
- Remarks in House relative to the compact entered into between certain states with respect to water rights in, 1725, January 8, 1926.
- Remarks in House relative to appropriation for flood-control work on, 1784, 12066, June 26, 1926.
- Remarks in Senate relative to improvement of, 12619, July 2, 1926.
- Resolution to obtain proposals for the purchase of water for irrigation and the development of power at a dam in (see H. Res. 245).
- Speech delivered by Charles H. Rutherford on the subject of the Colorado River compact, 1458, January 5, 1926.
- Statement by George H. Maxwell relative to the all-gravity American Colorado River constructive plan, 12966, July 3, 1926.
- Colorado River Basin.
- Bills to provide for the protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin (see bills S. 1868, 3331, 3414, H. R. 6251, 9826).
- Investigate the potential utilization of the water resources of (see bill S. 664).
- Letter from the Secretary of the Interior relative to the proposed construction of the Boulder Canyon project for protection and development of, 2098, January 15, 1926.
- Remarks in House relative to, 5424, March 11, 1926.
- Remarks in Senate on bill (S. 3331) relating to protection and development of the lower, 8139, April 24, 1926.
- Resolution to print reports by F. E. Weymouth and others on the problems of (see S. Res. 197).
- Resolution to investigate relative to the proposed protection and development of (see S. Res. 241).
- Johnson, Hiram W.
- Colorado River Basin: for protection and development of (see bills S. 1868, 3331), 1232, December 21, 1925; 4683, February 27, 1926.
- Remarks on
- Colorado River development, 3002, January 30, 1926.
- Boulder Canyon Dam 9511, 9512, 9513, May 17, 1926.
- Boulder Canyon project, 8020, April 23, 1926; 8139, 8141, 8142, April 24, 1926.
- Reports made by, from Com. on Irrigation and Reclamation.
- Boulder Canyon project (S. Rept. 654), 8020, April 23, 1926; 8139, April 24, 1926.
- 69th Congress, Second Session, vol. 68.*
- Boulder Canyon Reclamation Project.
- Address delivered by L. Ward Bannister on the subject of, 1817, January 17, 1927.
- Remarks in House relative to, 952, December 22, 1926.
- Boulder Dam, Colorado River.
- Amendments in Senate to bill (S. 3331) relating to the construction of, 4496, February 23, 1927; 4809, 4810, 4813, 4816, February 25, 1927; 4892, 4893, 4894, February 26, 1927.

- Amendment in Senate relative to proposed purchase by the State of Nevada of electrical energy made available by the use of water impounded by, 4414, February 22, 1927.
- Bills relating to the proposed construction of (see bill S. 3331).
- Editorial from the Christian Science Monitor relative to the proposed construction of, 2920, February 4, 1927.
- Letter from the Commissioner Bureau of Reclamation relative to the so-called Swing-Johnson bill providing for construction of, 2769, February 2, 1927.
- Letter from the Governor of Nevada relative to construction of, 4416, February 22, 1927.
- Memorandum in re constitutionality of Senate origination of bill relating to the proposed construction of, 2762, February 2, 1927.
- Minority views of Representative Hayden on bill (H.R.9826) relative to the proposed construction of, 5822, March 3, 1927.
- Remarks in Senate relative to proposed construction of, 1503, January 12, 1927; 2761, 2768, February 2, 1927.
- Remarks in Senate on bill (S. 3331) relating to the proposed construction of, 4156, February 18, 1927; 4227, February 19, 1927; 4405, 4421, 4426, 4495, February 22, 1927; 4528, 4541, February 23, 1927; 4653, 4655, February 24, 1927; 4759, 4813, February 25, 1927; 4896, February 26, 1927; 5471, March 3, 1927.
- Remarks in House relative to proposed construction of, 1748, January 15, 1927; 2633, January 31, 1927; 3064, 3073, February 5, 1927; 3272, 3292, February 8, 1927; 4832, February 25, 1927; 5761, March 3, 1927.
- Statement of Representative Swing before the Committee on Rules in the House regarding the attitude of Arizona and Utah toward the project of, 3082, February 5, 1927.
- Statement of Representative Taylor of Colorado before the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation in House relative to proposed construction of, 2652, January 31, 1927.
- Telegrams from the governor and from one of the commissioners of Arizona relative to the so-called Swing-Johnson bill for construction of, 4767, 4768, February 25, 1927.
- Telegrams from Robert Moos and others relative to the proposed construction of, 2054, January 21, 1927.
- 2768, 2769, February 2, 1927; 2920, February 4, 1927; 4156, 4157, 4158, 4159, February 18, 1927; 4198, 4227, 4230, February 19, 1927; 4290, 4291, 4301, 4302, 4303, 4304, 4306, 4307, February 21, 1927; 4413, 4427, 4452, February 22, 1927; 4495, 4496, 4512, 4513, 4529, 4532, February 23, 1927; 4651, 4652, 4655, February 24, 1927; 4766, 4767, 4809, February 25, 1927; 4896, 4898, 4899, February 26, 1927.
- Colorado River.
- Address delivered by Senator Phipps before the Denver Chamber of Commerce relative to proposed development of the water resources on, 1334, January 10, 1927.
- Address delivered by L. Ward Bannister relative to water rights on, 1817, January 17, 1927.
- Amendment and remarks in Senate making appropriation for operating and maintaining the front work and levee system adjacent to the Yuma irrigation project, 867, December 31, 1926.
- Amendments in Senate to bill (S. 3331) for protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin, 2280, January 26, 1927; 4200, February 19, 1927; 4496, February 23, 1927; 4809, 4810, 4813, 4816, February 25, 1927; 4892, 4893, 4894, February 26, 1927.
- Article by Anna Wolcott Vaile entitled "The Colorado River Compact," 4617, February 23, 1927.
- Article by Wayne C. Williams entitled "The Colorado River and the Constitution," 4615, February 23, 1927.
- Bills to provide for the protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin (see bills S. 3331; H. R. 9826, 15349, 15427).
- Bill to improve the navigability of (see bill H. R. 17401).

- Bills to suspend the issuance of water-power licenses on (see bills S. 5760, 5821; S. R. Res. 4).
- Bill restricting the issuance of permits or licenses by the Federal Power Commission affecting (see bill H. R. 17220).
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- Joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint a board of engineers to make investigation of the lower (see S. J. Res. 146).
- Joint resolutions to provide for a study regarding the equitable use of waters (see H. J. Res. 344; S. J. Res. 151, 155, 159).
- Letter from the Commissioner of Reclamation relative to the control of floods in, 2769, February 2, 1927; 3080, February 5, 1927.
- Letter from the Governor of Nevada relative to the development of, 4416, February 22, 1927.
- Map of lower basin of, 4431, February 22, 1927.
- Memorandum in re constitutionality of Senate origination of bill relating to the proposed construction of the Boulder Canyon dam in, 2762, February 2, 1927.
- Memorial of Legislature of Arizona remonstrating against passage of the bill for protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin, 1937, January 19, 1927; 4293, February 21, 1927.
- Memorial of Legislature of California relative to the compact between the states of California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming concerning, 1749, January 15, 1927.
- Message from the President transmitting report concerning proposed extension of the authority of the Commission on the Equitable Use of the Waters of the Lower Rio Grande to the waters of (H. Doc. 676) 2843, 2749, February 2, 1927.
- Minority views of Representative Hayden on bill (H. R. 9826) relative to the proposed development of, 5822, March 3, 1927.
- Opinion rendered by Kibbey, Bennett, Gust, Smith & Lyman concerning the so-called Swing-Johnson bill relating to, 2427, January 28, 1927; 4295, February 21, 1927; 4502, February 23, 1927.
- Opinion of John Mason Ross and James S. Casey concerning the bill for protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin, 2369, January 27, 1927.
- Proposal made by the Arizona Commissioners to the California Commissioners relative to the distribution of the waters of, 4501, February 23, 1927.
- Remarks in Senate on bill (S. 3331) to provide for the protection and development of the lower Colorado River Basin, 4156, February 18, 1927; 4227, February 19, 1927; 4290, 4309, February 21, 1927; 4405, 4421, 4426, February 22, 1927; 4495, 4528, 4541, February 23, 1927; 4653, 4655, February 24, 1927; 4759, 4813, February 25, 1927; 4896, February 26, 1927; 5471, March 3, 1927.
- Remarks in Senate relative to proposed construction of the Boulder Canyon dam in, 1503, January 12, 1927; 2761, 2768, February 2, 1927.
- Remarks in Senate relative to proposed investigation of the utilization of the waters of, 239, December 10, 1926.
- Remarks in House relative to the development of, 4832, February 25, 1927; 5761, March 3, 1927.
- Remarks in House relative to proposed construction of the Boulder dam in, 1748, January 15, 1927; 2633, January 31, 1927; 3064, 3073, February 5, 1927; 3272, 3292, February 8, 1927.
- Remarks in House relative to the Boulder Canyon reclamation project on, 952, December 22, 1926.
- Remarks in House relative to appropriations for protecting lands and property in the Imperial Valley and elsewhere along, 4939, February 26, 1927.
- Statement of Hon. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, relative to development of, 4317, February 21, 1927.

- Statement of Representative Hayden before the Committee on Rules in House relative to distribution of the waters of, 4504, February 23, 1927.
- Statement of Representative Swing before the Committee on Rules in House relative to the attitude of Arizona and Utah toward the Boulder dam project, 3082, February 5, 1927.
- Statement of Representative Taylor of Colorado relative to proposed construction of Boulder dam in, 2652, January 31, 1927.
- Statement of Arthur P. Davis relative to improvement of, 4313, February 21, 1927.
- Statement of Thomas Maddock relative to the so-called Swing-Johnson bill, 2428, January 28, 1927; 4296, February 21, 1927.
- Statement of F. E. Waymouth relative to improvement of, 4309, February 21, 1927.
- Telegrams for Robert Moos and others relating to the proposed construction of the Boulder dam in, 2054, January 21, 1927.
- Telegram from the Southern California Alumni Association of the University of Michigan favoring bill to dam, 1154, January 6, 1927.
- Colorado River Basin development, 2369, January 1927.

SPEECHES FROM CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, INDEXED ACCORDING TO SPEAKERS.

Johnson, Hiram W.

- Amendments offered by—to
Boulder Canyon dam bill (S. 3331) 4200, February 19, 1927; 4809, February 25, 1927.
- Motions and resolutions offered by—on
Boulder Canyon dam bill (S. 3331) to close debate on, 4655, February 24, 1927.

Morrow, John, in the House of Representatives.

- The Colorado River Legislation authorizing the Boulder Dam, and ratifying the Colorado River Compact, 5761, March 3, 1927.

Phipps, Lawrence C.

- Remarks on
Boulder Canyon dam, 2054, January 21, 1927; 4301, February 21, 1927; 4452, February 22, 1927; 4763, February 25, 1927.
- Speech in the Senate—The Boulder Canyon Project, 4511, 4512, 4513, 4514, 4515, 4516, 4517, 4518, February 23, 1927.

Swing, Phil D.

- Boulder dam project, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, January 31, 1927; 3082, February 5, 1927; 4844, 4845, February 25, 1927; 4939, February 26, 1927.
- Colorado River Basin: for protection and development of lower (see bills H. R. 15349, 15427), 687, December 17, 1926; 732, December 18, 1926.
- Colorado River development, 3074, 3077, February 5, 1927.

Taylor, Edward T.

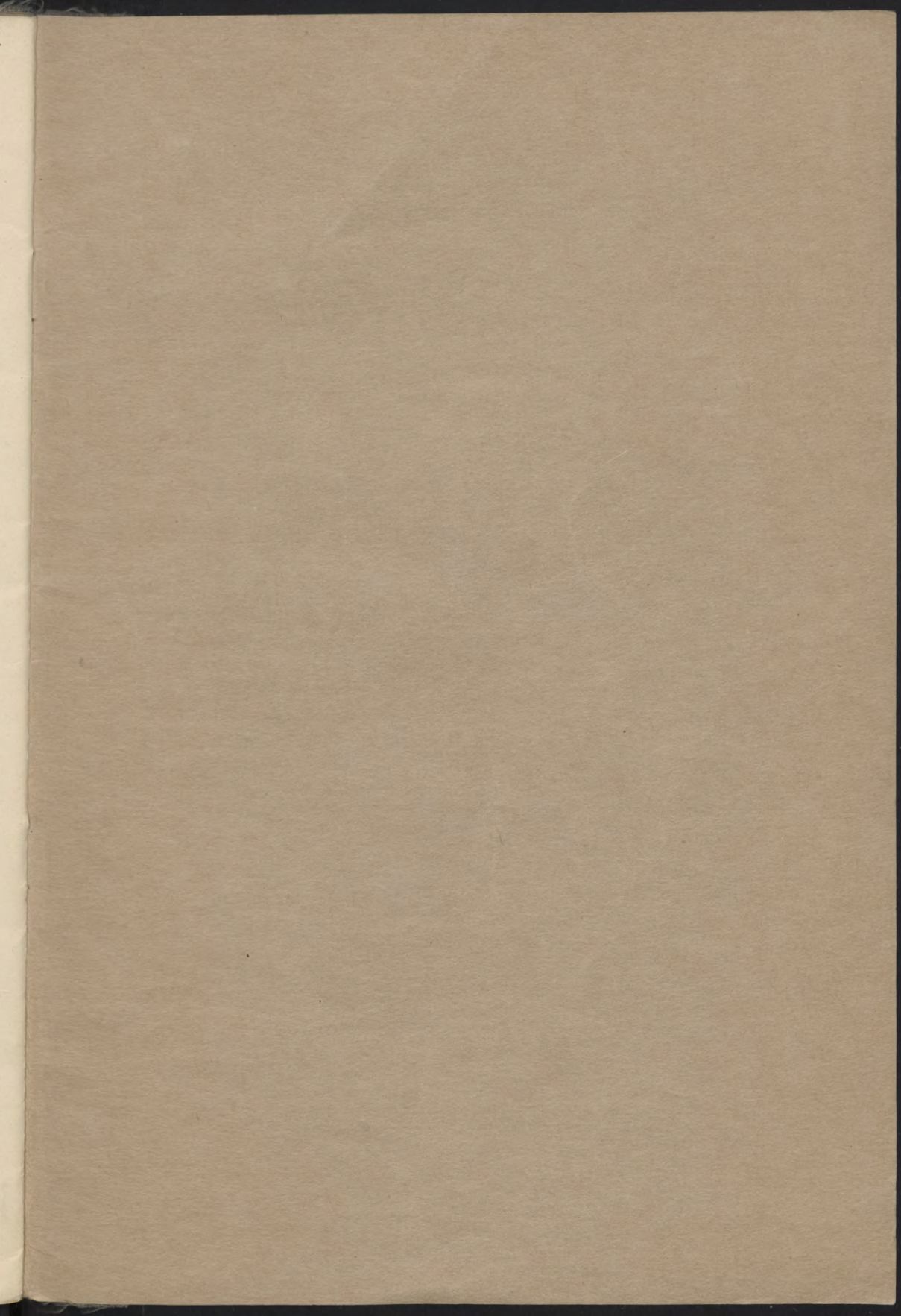
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The Boulder Canyon Bill and the Filibuster against the Colorado River Development. 4832, 4833, 4834, 4835, 4836, 4837, 4838, 4839, 4840, February 25, 1927.

Winter, Charles E., in the House of Representatives.

- The Boulder Dam Legislation, Ratifying the Colorado Compact, and assuring protection to all Basin States, 3292, 3293, February 8, 1927.

United States Daily—

- Colorado River Basin—See Annual Index to Vol. 1, page 26.



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