

76th Congress, 1st Session

Senate Document No. 36

NATIONAL IRRIGATION POLICY ITS DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL IRRIGATION POLICY—ITS DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE

CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

EXCHANGED BETWEEN

THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND SENATOR CARL
HAYDEN, CONSISTING OF A TREATISE ON "WHAT
FEDERAL RECLAMATION MEANS TO THE UNITED
STATES," AND A DISCUSSION ON THE NATIONAL
IRRIGATION POLICY, ITS DEVELOPMENT
AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE



PRESENTED BY MR. HAYDEN

FEBRUARY 27, 1939.—Referred to the Committee on Printing

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1939

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 90

[Reported by Mr. Hayden]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
February 28 (legislative day, February 27), 1939.

Resolved, That certain correspondence and papers exchanged between the Bureau of Reclamation and Senator Carl Hayden consisting of a treatise on "What Federal Reclamation Means to the United States and a Discussion on the National Irrigation Policy, Its Development and Its Significance" be printed as a Senate document, with illustrations.

Attest:

EDWIN A. HALSEY, Secretary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword:	
(a) Letter from the Honorable Carl Hayden, United States Senator from Arizona, to Mr. John C. Page, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, requesting certain information on Federal Reclamation and irrigation	v
(b) Letter from Mr. R. B. Williams, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, to Senator Carl Hayden, transmitting information and data	v
Synopsis	vii
Chapter I. Why Irrigation	1
Seasonable distribution of rainfall	1
Farming dependent on irrigation	5
Chapter II. The Beginning of Federal Reclamation	6
Irrigation in the United States	6
Reclamation as national policy	7
Chapter III. The Reclamation Law of 1902	9
Major features of act	10
Warren Act of 1911	10
President Theodore Roosevelt's position	11
President Taft approved progress	11
President Harding for expansion	12
President Coolidge endorses program	12
President Hoover sees national benefit	12
President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the subject	13
Secretary Harold L. Ickes reviews progress	14
Chapter IV. Some National Benefits of Reclamation	15
Project areas as market	16
The whole western market	18
Comparison with export trade	19
Distribution of insurance premiums	20
Chapter V. Reclamation and the Western States	20
Effect on assessed values	21
Estimates of assessed values	22
Chapter VI. Achievements of Federal Reclamation	22
Chapter VII. Results of Construction Program	24
Eastern States furnish material and labor	25
Chapter VIII. Reclamation Crop Production	26
Chapter IX. Electric Power and Reclamation	29
Chapter X. Financial Aspects of Reclamation	30
Charge-off of construction costs	31
Favorable record of repayments	31
Chapter XI. Indian Irrigation Projects	34
Chapter XII. Extent of Irrigation—Present and Future	34
Chapter XIII. Federal Reclamation and Readjustments in Land Uses	36
Reclamation projects and the drought	37
Relief in project areas	38
The demand for irrigated land	38
Migrations from the drought areas	38
A national problem	39

CONTENTS

APPENDIXES

	Page
1. Federal reclamation projects-----	40
2. Principal Indian irrigation projects-----	41
3. Power plants on reclamation projects-----	42
Ultimate power installation on Federal reclamation projects-----	42
Power plants operated on reclamation projects during fiscal year 1937-38-----	Face p. 42
4. Investment in irrigation enterprises-----	42
5. Irrigable areas dependent on Federal projects-----	46
6. National and regional organizations endorse reclamation-----	54
7. The facts on irrigated land-----	55
8. Reclamation fulfills its mission-----	58
9. Financial statements: Consolidated statement by projects of construction costs of recla- mation projects, other items reimbursable with construction, and amount repayable-----	64
Statements of reclamation fund charges paid and unpaid as of June 30, 1938-----	66
Statement of reclamation fund operation and maintenance charges paid and unpaid as of June 30, 1938-----	66
Statement of reclamation fund water rental charges paid and unpaid as of June 30, 1938-----	67

ILLUSTRATIONS

Map. Average annual precipitation (figure 1)-----	2
Map. Average precipitation between April 1 and September 30 (figure 2)-----	4
Graph. Federally owned lands in 11 public land States compared with non-Federal holdings-----	8
Map. Distribution by State of origin of non-Western products shipped to project areas—estimated average annual grand total, \$200,000,000-----	17
Map. Expenditures for materials, Grand Coulee and Boulder Dams-----	Face p. 24
Graph. Principal crops on Federal reclamation projects compared with national areas, yields and values of same crops for 1937-----	27
Map. Irrigation projects of Bureau of Reclamation-----	32
Map. Irrigable areas in 17 Western States, a comparison of Federal and private irrigation developments on completion of the present Federal re- clamation-Indian project programs-----	36
Chart I. Present private and Federal investment in irrigation-reclama- tion enterprises in Western States (1938)-----	43
Chart II. Private investment in irrigation-reclamation enterprises and ultimate Federal investment in projects now in operation or approved (1938)-----	45
Chart III. Irrigable land of private irrigation enterprises, areas depend- ent on Federal works for supplemental supply and area within Federal reclamation and Indian irrigation projects (1937) by States-----	48
Chart IV. Irrigable land in private irrigation enterprises, ultimate area to be supplied supplemental water and area within Federal and Indian irrigation projects in operation or approved (1938)-----	51

INDEX

	Page
Acreage	27, 28, 36
Cultivated in projects	23
Increases in	24
Irrigable under canals	23, 34
Supplied supplemental water	23
Adjustment Act of 1926	31, 34
Agriculture	27, 28
Dry farming	5, 6, 21
Irrigation	5, 6, 34, 60
Limitations on	35
Noncompetitive nature of	26, 29, 57, 61
Ranching	5
Specialty crops	61
Agricultural Adjustment Administration	26, 54
All-American Canal	24, 30, 40, 42, 56
Assessed valuation	22
Box Butte County	21
Goshen district	22
Project areas by States	22
Project farm lands	20
Salt River project	21
Scotts Bluff County	21
Automobiles	16
Bank deposits	58
In project areas	58
Bankhead-Jones Act	57
Boise, Idaho	21
Boise project	16, 40
Bonneville Dam	14
Boulder Dam	25, 29, 40, 42, 63
Box Butte County	21
British Society of Anthropology	6
Bureau of the Census	37, 42
Canals, length of	25
Carey Act	7, 40, 57, 63
Central Valley project	24
Charge-offs	31, 41
Amount of	31
Authorized by the Congress	31
Reasons for	31
Churches, number on projects	20
Cities	20, 23
Assessed value of	20
Number on projects	23
Colorado-Big Thompson project	40, 63
Communication systems benefited	22
Coolidge, Calvin	12
Cotton:	
Comparison of production	27, 28
Produced in West	18, 19
Produced on projects	26
Crop values	23

	Page
Dams, number of-----	25
Drought:	
Effect on irrigation-----	37
Effect on population-----	5, 38, 56
In 1890-----	9
In 1934-36-----	34, 36, 37, 57
Elephant Butte Dam-----	42, 63
Endorsements by:	
Chamber of Commerce of United States-----	55
Democratic Party-----	9
Mississippi Valley Association-----	54
National political parties-----	9
National Rivers and Harbors Congress-----	54
Ohio Valley Conservation and Flood Control Congress-----	54
Republican Party-----	9
Roosevelt, Theodore-----	11
Silver Republican Party-----	9
Export trade, comparison-----	19
Extension Act of 1914-----	10
Farm Security Administration-----	39
Farms:	
Assessed value of-----	20
Number on projects-----	23
General Electric Co-----	25
Geological Survey-----	11
Gila project-----	16, 40
Goshen District-----	22
Grand Coulee Dam-----	13, 23, 40, 55, 56, 62, 63
Great Plains Committee-----	5, 37, 60
Harding, Warren G-----	12
Hewitt, Abram S-----	9
Hoover, Herbert-----	12, 15
Ickes, Harold L-----	14, 15
Idaho State Planning Board-----	15
Indian projects:	
Cost of-----	34, 44
Extent of-----	34, 44
List of-----	41
Population of-----	34
Insurance:	
Distribution of premiums of-----	20
Irrigation:	
By Indians-----	7
Extent of-----	34, 35, 36, 55, 58
Farming-----	5, 6
Future development of-----	35, 55
In Egypt-----	6
In 1860, extent of-----	6
In 1902, extent of-----	6
In Utah-----	6
Indian projects, list of-----	41
Investment in-----	42
Permanency of-----	6
Private, expenditures for-----	20
Relationship with drought-----	37
Relationships with migrants-----	38, 39
Relationship with power-----	29
Kendrick project-----	40
Klamath project-----	40

INDEX

71

	Page
Land Planning Committee	35
Lands:	
Arid and semiarid	3
Arid, extent of	3
Cropped, extent of	46
Grazing	5
Irrigated	3, 26, 37
Irrigated, demand for	38, 56, 61
Irrigated, value of	20
Ownership of	8
Purchased by Government	35, 57
Submarginal, extent of	35, 57
Livestock	5
Fed on projects	37, 38
Feed for	6, 26, 37, 57, 61
Ranching	5
Markets:	
Boise project as a	16
Created by projects	16, 19
For automobiles	16, 19
Western	18
Mead, Dr. Elwood	30
Migrants	38
Number of	38
Problem of	39
Settlement of	38, 39
National Park Service	37
Newlands, Francis G.	10
North Platte project	21, 38, 40
Office of Indian Affairs	34
Page, John C.	7, 39, 58
Pathfinder district	38
Phoenix, Ariz.	21
Policy, Federal reclamation: Statements regarding—	
Agricultural Adjustment Administration	55
Chamber of Commerce of United States	55
Coolidge, Calvin (President)	12
Democratic Party	9
Harding, Warren G. (President)	12
Hoover, Herbert (President)	12, 15
Ickes, Harold L. (Secretary)	14, 15
Mead, Elwood (Commissioner)	30
Mississippi Valley Association	54
National Rivers and Harbors Congress	54
Ohio Valley conservation and flood-control program	54
Page, John C. (Commissioner)	7, 39, 58
Republican Party	9
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (President)	13, 26, 37
Roosevelt, Theodore (President)	11, 15
Schmitt-Haw report	6
Silver Republican Party	9
Taft, William Howard (President)	11
Population:	
Affected by land programs	36
Increase of	9
Of cities, towns on projects	20, 23
Of farms on projects	20, 23
Of projects	59, 60
Of West	9, 59
Western, growth of	23

	Page
Powell, Maj. John Wesley-----	7
Power-----	29
Hydroelectric development-----	29, 30, 63
Installation, reclamation projects-----	42
Plants operated, 1937-38-----	42
Produced in West-----	29
Relationship with irrigation-----	29, 63
Revenues, use of-----	29, 30
Projects, list of-----	40
Queen Semiramis-----	6
Rainfall-----	2
Distribution of-----	2, 3
Relation to agriculture-----	1, 5, 35
Seasonal distribution-----	3, 4
20-inch line-----	3
Reclamation-----	
Act of June 17, 1902-----	9, 58
Bureau of-----	11
Contributions of-----	20
Federal policy-----	58
Fund-----	10, 30
Investment in-----	42
Program-----	35
Projects, list of-----	40
Relationship with drought-----	37
Service-----	11
Relief in project areas-----	38
Repayment Commission-----	15, 31, 60
Repayments-----	30
Extension of time of-----	30
Period of-----	30
Table of-----	66
Rio Grande project-----	40, 63
Roosevelt, Franklin D-----	16, 26, 37
Roosevelt, Theodore-----	11, 15, 58
Salt River project-----	16, 21, 40
Schools, number on projects-----	20
Scotts Bluff County-----	21
Seminole Dam-----	63
Shasta Dam-----	63
Sugar beets-----	26, 55
Taft, William Howard-----	11
Tule Lake Division-----	38, 61
Warden, O. S-----	14
Warren Act-----	10, 47
Washington State Planning Council-----	15, 21
Water:-----	
Conservation of-----	29, 35
Stored, amount of-----	26
Supplemental supplies of-----	24, 47
Wheat:-----	
Dry farming-----	5
Production in West-----	18
Project production-----	28, 57
Yakima Valley-----	15
Young, Brigham-----	7

