NEW YORK
PHILADELPHIA
SUNSET ROUTE
OIL BURNING LOCOMOTIVES
OCEAN TO OCEAN
WASHINGTON
BOSTON

DOUBLE DAILY Train Service
10:30 a. m. 8 p. m.

Norfolk
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BEST SERVICE

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THROUGH STANDARD SLEEPER TO CHICAGO
10:30 a. m.

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ST. REGIS HOTEL

WATER USERS OPPOSE PROPOSAL TO LEASE POWER RIGHTS TO DAM

Adopt Resolutions Favoring Development by Reclamation Service Only.

The power possibilities of the Elephant Butte dam will be developed by the reclamation service, rather than by a private power company which has been in process of organization for some time. This was definitely decided by the board of governors of the Elephant Butte Water Users' association and the El Paso Valley Water Users' association at the joint meeting held Saturday in the grill room of the Sheldon.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear the reading of a proposal to lease the power rights of the Elephant Butte dam for a period of 50 years to a company to be known as the Rio Grande Power company, which proposed to utilize the power generated at the dam and elsewhere in the project to operate an electric railway, and supply power to consumers in general. It was the intention of this tentative company to contract for the erection of a power plant at the damsite and arrange for the utilization of the power as soon as possible. To do this it was proposed to issue $155,000 worth of stock at $1 per share, each land owner to be entitled to purchase as many shares as he owned acres of land.

Burges Submits Proposal.

The proposal was read by Richard F. Burges, who then submitted it in writing to the meeting and spoke in favor of it. Felix Martinez and H. B. Holt also spoke in favor of the proposal. The opposition to the proposal was led by J. A. Smith, L. Clapp, of Hatch, N. M., and Z. L. Cobb. Those in favor of the leasing proposal claimed that the plan of organizing a power company as proposed would be conducive to a full and a more economical development of the power from the dam. The opposition or "insurrectos" as they were good naturedy called, held that the reclamation service was the one to develop this power in connection with the construction of the irrigation project and was in fact already engaged in the preliminary part of this work. This it was held would be more advantageous than to have the reclamation service build the power plant, for which the government has already allowed money, for the same reasons that it was more advantageous to have the service build the dam itself rather than a private corporation.

Plan Is Opposed.

Following the discussion, J. A. Smith proposed a set of resolutions saying that the plan was not practicable nor desirable, because the control of any portion of a reclamation service project by a private corporation was not in accord with the spirit of the reclamation act. The resolutions also set forth that the proposal would be in violation of the letter of the law and that it might give the opponents of the Elephant Butte project in Colorado an opportunity to impede the progress of the project. A letter was read from W. M. Reed, district engineer of the reclamation service in which he gave his construction of the disposition of the moneys to be derived from the leasing of power and power privileges.

Discussion Becomes Spirited.

The discussion of the proposed plan of leasing the water power was heated at times during the meeting which continued until after four oclock Saturday afternoon. The vote on the proposal was not recorded, as it was taken viva voce, but it is said to have been strongly against the proposed leasing plan.

The Proposal.

The suggested plan for financing and developing electric power under the Rio Grande Irrigation project, and for the utilization of the same was submitted in writing as follow:

"In the belief that it is now expedient for the water users under the Rio Grande irrigation project to take steps to cooperate with the department of the interior and the reclamation service to secure the maximum development of electrical power, incident to the use of the water from the Elephant Butte dam for irrigation purposes, and that it is desirable that such development should proceed step by step, with the construction of the dam, to the end that the fullest development may be secured and that the power shall be utilized as soon as available, and especially with a view to the earliest practicable construction and operation of an electric railway up and down the valley, the following tentative plan of procedure is suggested.

"1. The water users composing the Elephant Butte Water Users' association and those composing the El Paso Valley Water Users' association should organize themselves into one corporation, which may be designated for convenience, the Rio Grande Power company.

"a. This corporation shall have 155,000 shares of stock (based on the acreage proposed to be watered) of the par value of $1 per share.

"b. Each water user in either association shall be entitled to subscribe for as many shares of stock in the Rio Grande Power company as he has acreage of irrigable land signed up and accepted for water rights under the Rio Grande irrigation project.

Fifty Year Lease.

"2. The Rio Grande Power company should enter into a lease with the secretary of the interior, whose action will be approved by the two Water Users' associations, by which the Rio Grande Power company would take over the power and power privilege under the Rio Grande project for a period of 50 years at an annual rental to be agreed upon between the parties.

"3. The Rio Grande Power company should enter into a contract with the proper parties to engineer, develop and construct the necessary power plant at the dam, and elsewhere if practicable, transmission lines to conduct the power where needed for use, and an interurban railway to be operated from the power thus developed, such railroad to be of such length and be constructed between such points in New Mexico and Texas as the Rio Grande Power company may find to be feasible. It is obvious that money for such development must be borrowed by the Rio Grande Power company, but investigation has developed the fact that sufficient funds can be borrowed for that purpose by the issuance of securities in the form of 40 year bonds of the Rio Grande Power company, such bonds to be secured by all the assets of the Rio Grande Power company, including the power plant, transmission lines, electric railway, etc, as well as the leasehold interest in the power developed and to be developed from such project. It is probable that such securities can be placed to the best advantage by making sale of same through a construction company with whom contract is made to construct the desired work. Investigation has led to the belief that this can be done.

"4. It is suggested that a contract could be made between the Rio Grande Power company and a constructing company, by which the construction company would agree to construct such power plant, transmission lines and electric railway, on a percentage basis, payment to be made in cash, or at the option of the Rio Grande Power company, in the aforementioned bond. It is probable that if payment were made in bonds they would have to be discounted to some extent."

The Resolutions.

The resolutions which were passed read:

"Whereas, a plan has been submitted to a joint meeting of the board of governors of the El Paso Water Users' association and the directors of the Elephant Butte Water Users' association proposing that the water users organize a power company to obtain a 50 year lease of the water power rights of the Rio Grande reclamation project, under the provisions of section five of 'An act providing for the withdrawal from public entry of lands needed for townsite purposes, in connection with irrigation projects under the reclamation act of June 17, 1902, and for other purposes,' approved April 16, 1906, as amended by an act approved Feb. 24, 1911, and proposing that said power right, if the lease should be obtained by the proposed corporation, together with the improvements planned to be made, be bonded for the purpose of building an electric railroad through a portion of the valley, etc.

"Be it resolved: by said joint body that said plan is not practicable or desirable for the following reasons:

"1. Because the control of any portion of a reclamation project by a private corporation is not in accord with the spirit of the reclamation act.

"2. Because the proposed control of the power of the Rio Grande project by a private corporation would be in violation of the letter of the law. Section 5 of the preamble does not authorize, and would not permit, the secretary of the interior to lease said power rights, as proposed, for the reason that a general lease cannot be given. He can only lease 'any surplus power or power privilege.' The character and amount of this surplus power is indefinite and it would be impossible to fix a fair rental value upon the same.

"3. Because the plan endangers, and might seriously impede, the progress of our project, as advantage of such action might be taken by owners of lands in Colorado. The government has, in our interest, denied them the use of water that they claim Colorado was entitled to. The government will continue to protect us so long as we use water only for irrigation, and for such power as is developed while the water is being actually used for irrigation, but the government will not give us water not needed for irrigation, and take the same away from Colorado, to create power.

"4. The water users now own, subject only to their debt to the government, the entire project, prospective power right as well as prospective irrigation system. If preserved in their ownership, the power will furnish immense revenue to the land owners of this valley.

"5. Because we have perfect confidence in the administration of the reclamation service, and we believe, from past experience, that it will fully develop the power incident to the project and indicate to us the most profitable use of the same."

Engineer Reed's Letter.

The following letter from W. M. Reed, district engineer of the reclamation service, to Felix Martinez, secretary of the El Paso Water Users' association, was read at the meeting:

"I am requested by one of the members of your board of governors to give the construction placed by the reclamation service upon the following language contained in an act of congress approved February 24, 1911, providing for lease of power and power privileges under the Rio Grande project: 'And the money derived from such leases shall be covered into the reclamation fund and be placed to the credit of the project from which such power is derived,' which involves also a construction of the following query submitted to your association:

"'Does the reclamation service hold that the power which may be developed as a by-product of the use of water for irrigation will be the property of the Water Users' association?'

"While I have no authority to state what construction would be placed by the department of the interior or the reclamation service upon the language quoted, if it should become my duty to construe such language, my construction would be that the funds derived from the leases of power or power privileges would have to be placed to the credit of the project from which derived, without regard to whether there was or was not any indebtedness to the government on account of the construction charge or otherwise, and when the project is turned over to the owners of the land to be irrigated, as provided by section six of the reclamation act, the power and power privileges, and the right to any revenue therefrom, would necessarily go with the project. To my mind the language of the act precludes any other construction. The money thus derived could not be diverted or used elsewhere without a special act of congress so provided.

"It seems to me that the only construction of which the act is susceptible is that all of the benefits arising from the lease of power or power privileges must necessarily inure to the benefit of the ultimate users of water under the project, at whose cost the works are constructed."

Says Power Will Be Used.

Engineer J. A. French of the reclamation service, appeared before the meeting and told the directors that the reclamation service was proceeding with plans for the development of the power possibilities of the dam and that this feature would be taken care of the same as the irrigation. The power plant site will be selected by the engineers and the electrical possibilities handled by O. H. Ensign, chief electrical engineer of the service, and his assistants.

A resolution was also introduced by J. A. Smith approving of the congressional legislation which was passed permitting the power from the dam to be leased for a long term of years.

BOTH SIDES OF THE CASE

Richard F. Burges said: "I will state frankly that I do not understand what is mean by the first paragraph of the Cobb resolutions which are printed in full in this morning's paper, which paragraph is as follows: 'Because the control of any portion of a reclamation project by a private corporation is not in accord with the spirit of the reclamation act.'

"The water users association is in technical legal sense 'a private corporation' and certainly it will ultimately control the reclamation project, subject always to the supervision of the government. It is not proposed in the plan submitted by me to the water users association to organize 'a private corporation' in any other or different sense from that in which the water users association is 'a private corporation.' What is proposed is that the two water users associations jointly organize, from their own membership solely a railway and power corporation, which as a public service corporation will be subject to the control of the laws of the state of Texas and the laws of New Mexico regulating such corporations in precisely the same way that the water users associations are now subject to such laws.

"It is not proposed to depart or deviate in any manner whatsoever from the provisions of the reclamation act or the regulations of the interior department or the reclamation service and indeed it would not be possible to do so, since the lease must proceed from the secretary of the interior and must meet the requirements of the reclamation service, before it can be made. It is not to be supposed for one instant that the government will build an electric railway in this valley or that it will spend any considerable sum of money in making any application of the power to be derived from the project as a by-product of the use of the water for irrigation. There is a wise proverb which says, 'That heaven helps those who help themselves.' I am disposed to believe that we shall find the government in the same category in this respect, and certainly we can do no damage by formulating our plans and submitting them to the proper representatives of the government for their approval. Between the careful scrutiny of the agents of the government and our own citizens, we ought to be able to work out a plan to utilize this power and develop this valley without selling or mortgaging our 'birthright' to anybody. The means to do this is found in the amendment to the law which was passed at the recent short session of congress at our request.

"The water users now have the opportunity to themselves own and utilize the power and to build an electric railway through this valley. The question is, will they avail themselves of their opportunity?"

Zach Cobb said:

"Postmaster Smith introduced those resolutions. It is honor enough for me to be a follower on the right side of this tremendous question.

"The whole thing reminds me of the American tramp out at Yuma who had Indians jumping in the river pulling drift logs out. He gave them half of the logs that they themselves rescued.

"The Cincinnati gentleman, who quietly looked the ground over out here last August, who engineered this bill through congress, who claims to be a friend of the president, etc., and who is now here pushing the Burges plan, would be willing to give us half of our power if we adopt this scheme, when we already own it all, and always will own it all, if we just adopt the advice given by Roosevelt at Las Cruces, who said: 'Don't under any circumstances allow the control of this water power with its vast potentialities to go out of your control. Don't let eastern or foreign corporations gain control of it.'

"The difference between the water users' association and the proposed power company is apparent. The stock in the former, by special provision of law, is appurtenent to the land. You can only own 160 shares. That stock cannot be controled by a monopoly. It belongs to the people forever.

"The power company would soon be owned by special interests, either by buying up the stock, or freezing it out when the proposed railroad failed to pay interest.

"Let us build the electric road without losing our birth right. I will donate $1000. It will be worth that to my land. But don't surrender the power. The government will develop it for us as a part of the project. It will make the valley immensely rich. It should be held sacred forever."

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ENGLAND WANTS TO ARBITRATE FOR US

Parliament Seems to Think That We Have a War on With Mexico.

London, Eng., March 27.—The group in the house of commons, who have persistently heckled the government regarding ambassador Bryce's connection with the American-Canadian reciprocity negotiations, are now trying to involve the British diplomat in the Mexican situation. Today these members invited the foreign office to instruct Mr. Bryce to urge on president Taft the desirability of submitting the "Mexican question" to arbitration.

Secretary Grey's reply was: "I do not know to what question you are alluding. The relations of the United States and the Mexican governments, according to my most recent information, are quite friendly."

TRANSFER FORT BLISS SUIT TO FEDERAL COURT

The suit of R. Y. Anderson against Col. A. L. Sharpe, in which the title of the United States military reservation at Fort Bliss, Tex., is involved was transferred from the 34th district court of the state of Texas to the United States district court, Saturday afternoon.

MET BY LOCAL SHRINERS.

Fred A. Hines, imperial potentate of the Shriners of North America, accompanied by Fred Henderson, both of Los Angeles, Calif., passed through El Paso Saturday on the Golden State Limited, en route to Chicago and New York to visit the shrines in those cities. A large delegation from the local shrine was at the station to greet them.

H. Russell Voorhees, a banker, and member of the Voorhees company, financial advertising house, of New York, arrived in El Paso Saturday from California, and is at the St. Regis. Charles M. Smith, traveling manager of the American Dealers Steam Packing company, of Palmyra, N. Y., is also in El Paso, and reports business in this city and vicinity flourishing.

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FAIRBANKS TELLS OF WAR IN JUAREZ

Gives Impressions of Visit to Border City During Exciting Period.

Former vice president Charles W. Fairbanks, who has returned to his home in Indianapolis, Ind., after a visit in the west, which included El Paso, has given some of his impressions of our little insurrection to an Indianapolis paper. Telling of the Mexican trouble he says:

"On the way to California I stopped at El Paso, Tex., which is just across the border from the Mexican town of Juarez, where the insurrectos are active. An El Paso friend told me that whenever word was received that there was to be a fight between the Mexican federal troops and the insurrectos people on the American side would hurry in automobiles to the border and seek places of advantage from which to witness the fight. Some of them took to the valleys while others sought places on the high bluffs, all in search of the most desirable point from which to view the fight. It was like a holiday, they told me.

"With an El Paso friend I went over into Juarez. In the middle of the town I saw many soldiers on the roofs of buildings. Around the edge of the roofs were sand bags piled high for breastworks for the soldiers. On some of the buildings the side walls were built several feet above the roof, and port holes had been made in these walls so that the soldiers on the roof could shoot through them. It was rather novel to see the Mexican soldiers take up their position in the middle of the town. In our country the soldiers would be at the outskirts to keep the enemy from entering. The Mexican troops were certainly in a safe position and free from danger of getting hurt.

"There seemed to be an impression among the people along the border that the Mexican government was disposed favorably to consider some of the grievances which are said to exist among the Mexican people."

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COULDN'T CUT SLICE OF BREAD

Ipswich Lady Tells What Happened When She Decided to Take Advice of Her Friends.

Ipswich, S. D.—Mrs. Henry Royle, of this place, says: "I suffered for nearly 10 years, with womanly trouble. The doctors could not help me, but Cardui has made me well and strong. Before I commenced to take Cardui, I could not stand on my feet.

"I was so weak I could not cut a slice of bread. Now, I can stand all day, and I can do most of my work. I think Cardui is the best medicine in the world. I have been feeling fine ever since I began to take it. Cardui was recommended to me by a friend, and I will gladly tell my friends of it. Cardui is a wonderful medicine."

If Cardui will relieve and cure such a stubborn and long-standing trouble as that of Mrs. Royle, then it is only reasonable to believe it will quickly and surely help you, too.

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