

ARID LAND PROJECT

"The Whole Situation Chaotic at Present," Says Senator Bard—International Complications

The whole situation is chaotic at present, and seems to present a severe test of the reclamation project. Some way out of the difficulty will doubtless be found, for to reason otherwise would be to assume that the American people have lost their knack. We must study the factors, and not be too hasty. I have been studying the treaties and physical facts with the view of keeping myself informed and in a position to act intelligently on the subject.

That is the view taken by Senator Bard of the complex conditions governing the Yuma arid land reclamation project and that of the Imperial Valley both being based on the use of the Colorado river.

Senator Bard has just returned from an inspection of the Yuma and the Imperial Valley regions, in company with Chief Engineer Newell of the Reclamation Service and a number of the attaches of the Department of Agriculture. A talk with the Senator developed the intimation that the serious and complicated questions concerned in the matter would probably embarrass the Secretary of the Interior in arriving at a conclusion.

The secretary has the power to determine a line of action, but in view of the international phases of the matter and of the turbid condition of the law points, it is likely that Congress will be asked to take final action after the secretary has submitted his reports containing findings of facts and recommendations.

The Mexican government has filed a protest against the government's taking the position that the Colorado river is a stream for irrigation purposes rather than for navigation. On the other hand the Mexican government has made a contract with a sub-company of the California Development Company permitting the construction of a canal in Mexican territory which shall carry 10000 cubic feet of water, from the Colorado for irrigation purposes, this to be taken from the river on the American side, with another clause permitting the company to take an equal amount from the Mexican side, so long as it does "not injure navigation." Not less than half of the latter provision is to be used on the American side of the line.

These combined amounts would mean more than double the average flow of the stream; so if this claim with that given by the State of California to the California Development Company becomes substantiated by law, there would be no water left for the Yuma project unless it were obtained by storage reservoirs and taken from the river at the times of highest water. These reservoirs would in certain instances have to be built in Colorado, and senators from that State have said that they would

never permit such to be done for the benefit of another State.

Under the law of priority of use, if the stream was to be denoted as not navigable, but for irrigation purposes, it is thought that the grant to the California Development Company from the State of California might carry a vested right to the exclusion of others.

"There are the international questions to be considered," said Senator Bard, "and with that the legislator must con-

sider his duty to the interests of the people, together with the complicated legal matters involved. I am confident that some solution will be reached, but I am not prepared at present to define what this should be; in fact no definite theory can be formulated until we see what the Secretary has to say and what his recommendations will be."—Champion.

Coughing Spell Caused Death

"Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years, choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for some time. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation."—St. Louis Globe Democrat, December 1, 1901. Ballard's Horebound Syrup would have saved him. 25 cents, 50 cents and \$1.00.

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