

Some years ago, after the Swing-Johnson bill had passed both houses of Congress after a long struggle, and the president's signature affixed, Las Vegas wondered what the future held in store as a result of construction of the gigantic Boulder Dam. Civic leaders in this community were forced to take it out in wondering, for there never had been anything like this project undertaken before. There was no precedent, nothing to serve as a guide. Las Vegas sat back and listened to the then secretary of interior glow with plans for the building a model city at the dam site, and had only a vague idea what it would mean.

Today the picture has largely been unfolded. The story of the meaning of a gigantic project of this nature to the community nearest the activity, has been written. What it would have meant to Las Vegas had there been no Boulder City can easily be estimated. We are the pioneer—the precedent and future projects will be analyzed and measured by Boulder Dam.

This is the reason why T. J. Hocking, enterprising publisher of the Glasgow, Montana, Courier
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FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. Cahlan

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will arrive here next month by plane with two other civic leaders to study first-hand, the effect on Las Vegas and nearby area of Boulder Dam construction. For public works appropriations have recently been authorized to the extent of \$25,000,000 to construct the Fort Peck Dam on one of the tributaries of the Missouri River nearby. Glasgow, according to latest available figures (the chamber of commerce of the enterprising city will please forgive me if I'm wrong) is a city of about 2,500, and expects big things from construction of this great dam. Just what those things will be they hope to determine with a fair degree of accuracy from looking over Las Vegas, Boulder City and Boulder Dam.

Undoubtedly Las Vegas can tell Mr. Hocking and his friends plenty, for we've learned much from experience, which at last accounts was still the best teacher. In order to save the feelings of all concerned, ye humble scribe will save his thoughts on the matter for the confidential ear of Mr. Hocking with the hope that his community may be able to profit thereby, for there are some rather important details that might be changed were we to do it all over again.

However, aside from these details, we can assure the Glasgow publisher that his community is in for an era of steady growth during the construction period, and should reach a population of ten or fifteen thousand persons, if the 2,500 figure quoted above is anywhere near correct for the present census. If carefully planned and executed, the career of his city should be one of expansion to prosperity which in years to come will be bounded only by the energy, foresight and cooperation of his community. There is NO substitute for a payroll in any community, and Las Vegas as well as the rest of southern Nevada find themselves extremely fortunate to be in the midst of a great payroll while other communities have been trembling on the brink of disaster during a serious depression.

What Las Vegas cannot tell Mr. Hocking and his 'friends, is what the dam would have meant had it come in normal times, when other industries in this area now closed these four or five years, were operating full blast. For while we admit we're fortunate in a way, still we cannot help contemplating what might have been had the railroad been operating as in its heyday, Arden, Sloan, Blue Diamond, West End, Goodsprings, Searchlight and the rest performing as in the years prior to 1929, and activities concentrated here instead of creating a new community.