

John C. Page Outlines Projects In Store For West Development

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RENO, Oct. 12.—(UP)—Reclamation Commissioner John C. Page told 300 delegates to the seventh annual national reclamation association convention, that projects within a year or two will cover an average of 150,000 acres of new land a year for settlement.

Page said: "Drought, misuse of soils and machinization of agriculture in other areas are driving to the west thousands upon thousands of unfortunate farm families who are victims of new, tragic problems."

He said that the bureau projects under construction will make available 2,500,000 acres for settlement which, if it were ready for immediate entry would take care of 50,000 families.

Page declared that "these projects will not solve the problem, but they will help materially. They stand today as the shining hope of thousands for new life and a new chance."

The commissioner revealed that the reclamation bureau is at-

tempting to work out through the farm security administration modified regulations for the settlement of land to assure that the penniless but worthy drought refugees can obtain land on a reclamation project.

Page looked forward to future development of another 7,500,000 acres and urged formation of plans to determine "where, when and how the available waters best could be used for irrigation.

He urged delegates to study closely the recommendations of the repayment commission named by the secretary of interior.

"It is time that something be done to forestall sporadic moratoria on construction charges, or the federal reclamation policy may be permanently weakened," Page warned.

Page and Secretary of the Interior Ickes will leave for Las Vegas sometime during the day Friday and will be in Boulder City on Saturday for a meeting with various officials on Saturday.