

Geological Bureau to Make Study of Mineral Deposits Here

GATHER DATA NOW

12/18/33
Results to Be Sifted by a Prominent Engineer From New York

The mineral and industrial survey of the Boulder dam area, plans for which were presented to Secretary Harold Ickes, of the interior department recently by the Nevada congressional delegation and a committee from the Las Vegas chamber of commerce, consisting of A. C. Grant, A. W. Ham and A. E. Cahlan, is already under way and will be completed in about four months, it was revealed yesterday by Congressman J. G. Scrugham who has been working ceaselessly on the project ever since it was first conceived.

The plan for the survey, according to Scrugham, calls for an investigation by the U. S. Geological Survey of the mineral deposits in southern Nevada which can be used in industry. When this survey is completed, the data will be turned over to an industrial planning board headed by W. C. Bowman, prominent consulting engineer of New York City, to work out plans for developing these deposits commercially thru use of Boulder dam power.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, working under Director W. C. Mendenhall, has already started its investigation, and for the past two weeks has been gathering all data in Washington concerning this area. Upon information so far gathered, Scrugham says geologists in the department predict extensive development from:

1.—A high grade steel industry, manufacturing tool steel; and other ferro-manganese products. Existence of a huge deposit of pure iron ore in the Kingston range of mountains in lower Pahrump valley which has already been thoroughly prospected, makes this possible. Presence of vanadium, and cobalt in Goodsprings district, and bedded manganese in Vegas Wash makes possible manufacture of best grades of alloyed steels.

2.—Production of cobalt as a separate product.

3.—Production of high-grade pigments for paint thru sublimation of low-grade zinc ores with electricity.

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Dam Survey

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4.—Production of potash products from allunite deposits extensively existing in the Wahmonie district.

5.—Production of metal magnesium from the large deposits in the vicinity of Kaolin in the Moapa valley.

6.—Production of beryllium, a metal lighter than aluminum and stronger than steel. Large deposits in the Virgin Range extending from Bunkerville to St. Thomas, insure success of this industry.

7.—Development of brucite deposits in the Luning district in Mineral county for production of metal magnesium.

8.—Development of zinc, lead and manganese in the Pioche district.

9.—An entirely new industry based on recent discoveries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presaging the transformation of common salt sulphates found so abundantly in this area to the rarer alkalis thru the bombardment of atoms by high voltage electricity in large amounts.

"This latter angle may quite conceivably be the most important of all," Congressman Scrugham declared. "It may sound a bit fantastic, but scientists thruout the east are convinced it is a development that is almost certain to come. Such an industry would demand vast amounts of cheap power and raw materials, and we'll have both right here. It is an entirely new idea, does not conflict with any industry now operating, and may be the best bet of all."

SCRUGHAM HAS been working with Dr. Elwood Mead, commissioner of reclamation, and the geological survey heads, mapping plans for the survey, and says that men will be dispatched to Las Vegas sometime after the first of the year to explore all known mineral deposits, to determine their extent and quality.

"Our greatest wealth lies in large bedded mineral deposits," Scrugham points out. "These will have to be carefully investigated, and it is the purpose of the geological survey to do this immediately."

Scrugham declared that Dr. Mead is entirely in accord with the purposes of the survey and has offered every cooperation of his department. He stated also that Secretary Ickes is favorable and that if the amount of money set aside for the survey is not sufficient, more can be obtained as needed.

SCRUGHAM SAID also he was positive the cooperation of the railroad companies in developing industries in this area would be forthcoming, declaring that officials of both the Southern and Union Pacific railroads had stated they could not conceive of the possibility of railway electrification thru use of the power, but that they were vitally interested in developing industries along their routes which would use the railroads for hauling raw materials.

“Let me say that the visit of your chamber of commerce committee to Washington gave this thing the push necessary to get it going,” Congressman Scrugham said. “There are so many things demanding consideration in Washington right now, that it’s hard to focus attention on any one project. Your committee forced this to the fore, and gave it the big impetus. Your delegation in Washington including Senator Pittman, Senator McCarran and myself have been working on it ever since, and will continue to follow thru. I think it is the greatest step forward in Nevada’s history.”