

The best news in many a long year—since the signing of the Swing-Johnson bill by President Coolidge as a Christmas present on December 21, 1928, in fact—is that brought yesterday by Congressman Jim Scrugham outlining the start of the mineral and industrial survey in this area to determine just how the power generated at this project can be put to work. Details of the progress already made, are published in another portion of this issue. The story offers a new and different conception of the development of this area, bringing something tangible to replace the more or less fanciful basis upon which we built our hopes before.

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Congressman Scrugham says: "I never placed much stock in the possibilities for development here until my recent conferences with veteran engineers in the geological survey, but their outline of what may be expected here opens a new field to my way of thinking—a field that will develop new industries most of which will not be in conflict with those already established, which to my mind, is important. I am convinced now that southern Nevada is destined to become one of the greatest industrial centers in the western United States."

Scrugham is an experienced engineer and knows about such things. He could see no possibilities in the industries we have been previously advised would flourish here. The manner in which the geological survey is attacking the problem, and information already put together has convinced him we are at least on the right track, thanks to the initiative of the chamber of commerce and county commissioners in sending a committee to Washington to push the survey idea and the energy immediately put behind it by the Nevada congressional delegation. Just what this survey actually means will become more and more apparent as the months roll by.

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And speaking of Boulder dam power. The Reno Journal after considerable worrying over the matter, has reached the conclusion that "it is difficult to see how Boulder dam power ever could benefit Reno," pointing out that the "big project is 500 miles from Reno," and that the cost of a transmission line would be "absolutely prohibitive." So what?

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Don't know that anyone who has studied the subject at all ever suggested that northern Nevada might be benefitted directly by the power generated at the dam. That is no one except those who proposed

to exchange power at the dam site for power delivered in Reno. Even that might be feasible and result in a considerable reduction in cost to the northern Nevada power users. But the indirect benefits will far overshadow any that might accrue if the power could be transmitted north and delivered there at a lower figure than at present.

"Boulder dam and Reno?" Yes, Mr. Editor, a greater southern Nevada means a greater Reno, and greater Nevada. There will be results here for us all. Come down and see for yourself sometime. Look into the proposition in detail and find that the revenue from the sale of the power alone at the figure for which it is already contracted, will bring Nevada more than half the total amount annually, now raised by state tax rate, and that this ought to benefit Reno. You will find also that when you say "southern California experts have figured that they can ship in Utah coal and generate electricity at a lower cost than by costly dams and hydro plants" you are singing the refrain that will be heard more and more often as the day for beginning Boulder dam power generation nears, for it is that tune southern California hopes will bring about a reduction in the price of power which will eliminate the revenue promised Arizona and Nevada, and give Las Angeles an even cheaper power than that now in prospect. As a matter of fact, (I quote the Nevada-Colorado River Commission), power CANNOT be generated by steam cheaper than it can be laid down in Los Angeles from Boulder dam, but we'll have plenty of figures flung in our face to prove it can, before the price is finally stablized.

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