

Looking at WASHINGTON

Water, It Seems, May Become Scarce

Not many people realize the vast importance of an adequate water supply or that future years may bring to the United States a serious water shortage in some parts of the nation. Geologists government officials and conservationists estimate that the nation now uses about 700 gallons of water a day for each person. Even greater use is expected in the future and this may create problems which might be solved if there is better planning in the conservation of ground water resources and the use of surface water.

As a national problem, the threat of a water shortage may arise in the arid West. The line of demarcation between the two sections of the nation follows the twenty-inch average annual rainfall line, which dissects the Western part of Texas and moves Northward through the center of North and South Dakota. East of this line, water supplies exceed requirements but West of the line, there is a decreasing rate of precipitation, and interior regions, including Arizona, New Mexico, parts of Texas, Colorado, California, Utah and Nevada, may face a future problem.

The average rainfall in the United States is sufficient to cover over three million square miles to a depth of nearly thirty inches. This supply is unevenly distributed and, according to the experts, only about thirty per cent is being used. Contrasted with the less than twenty inches of annual rain that falls in some sections is the fifty-two inches that cover the seven states of the Tennessee Valley each year. The magnitude of this volume of water is better understood when we say that it means six thousand tons of water falling on each acre of land every year.

While there is no immediate crisis, except when caused by unseasonable drought, in most of the continental area of the nation, there are, as pointed out, huge arid areas. The problem of an adequate water supply in these regions is already pressing. It might be timely, therefore, for the nation to give greater attention to the steps necessary to conserve water to sources in other regions which are on the borderline. Neither is it beyond the possibility that study and ingenuity might make available new water supplies for these areas without injuring other areas that enjoy abundant rainfall.

Nobody Can Check the Talking

The President is reported concerned over some of the talking that has been done by members of Congress, notably Senator Edwin C. Johnson, of Colorado, who recently said that considerable progress had been made on atom-

ic bombs, with one now being made that is six times the power of the Nagasaki bomb and that a bomb one thousand times as powerful is possible.

There is no way for the President or anybody else to muzzle the tongues of the members of Congress. When one of them wants to hit the headlines he can talk to his heart's content and there is nobody to say him nay. The same observation goes for the President himself. He sometimes gives out important information without being amenable to anybody.

Population Forecast for 1975

The population of the United States may be as high as 188,500,000 by 1975, according to a prediction by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which foresees a possible gain of 26.4 per cent. If this maximum is realized, it will be a gain of about 39,000,000 in population in the next quarter-century and, according to the Bureau's forecast about one-fourth of this gain is expected to occur on the West Coast.

For purposes of forecasting future population growth, the Bureau divided the United States into nine regions. It predicated its "high" figure on what it considers maximum growth, but it also gives what will happen if there are "low" population growth and migration.

In the paragraphs below, we give the high and low forecasts for each region, and list the states included in the area:

New England (including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island): present population, 9,350,000; high, 10,636,000; low 9,497,000.

Middle Atlantic (including New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania): present population, 30,102,000; high, 36,076,000; low, 31,631,000.

East North Central (including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin): present population, 30,370,000; high, 38,377,000; low, 33,036,000.

West North Central (including the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas): present population, 14,145,000; high, 15,653,000; low, 14,091,000.

South Atlantic (including the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida): present population: 19,870,000; high, 25,120,000; low, 21,623,000.

East South Central (including Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi): present population, 11,224,000; high, 17,614,000; low, 15,341,000. **Mountain** (including Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada): present population, 4,800,000; high, 6,072,000;

low low, 5,227,000.

Pacific (including California, Oregon and Washington): present population, 14,937,000; high, 24,855,000; low 19,675,000.

McCarran On the Irish Question

Every year the United States Congress sends a number of delegations abroad for various purposes. Some of the Congressmen go to make serious studies of affairs in foreign lands, connected with their duties in Congress, and others go for a junket.

We think that it is a good thing for the Congressmen to get into other lands and to get some idea of what is taking place in other countries. It is quite possible that their experience will give them a broader viewpoint to the world's difficulties and the part that this country must play in the future.

One of the dangers of such journeys, however, is the inability of people in other lands to understand the relative unimportance of the remarks

made by a single Congressman. Very often when a Senator of the United States speaks his mind on a troublesome issue in a foreign land, his listeners get the idea that he is speaking for the United States. Consequently, his remarks are taken more seriously than they should be and, sometime, this makes more difficult the mutual understanding that should exist between all peoples.

Something of a case in point comes from Cork, Ireland, where Senator Patrick A. McCarran, of Nevada, expressed his opinion that the separation of the six Northern counties from the Republic of Ireland is unfortunate

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"not only for Ireland, but for the whole world." This is the opinion of all the people of the United States. The dispute between Northern Ireland and the Southern Republic is of long standing. It is a domestic matter, to be settled by the Irish and the British.

Mr. McCarran thinks that "the day is not so far distant when Ireland will be called upon to play a heavy part in the battle my country is making against Communism." Apparently, because he hopes that Ireland will fight Communism, he thinks that there should be a compulsory union

of Ulster with Eire.

It may be that the Irish Republic will take side of the freedom-loving peoples of the world in the war against Communism, but one should not overlook the fact that the Republic of Ireland did not take its stand with the free nations of the world when they were threatened by Nazi oppression. In fact, the neutrality of Southern Ireland, closing its ports and facilities to the forces of the United States and Great Britain, resulted in heavy losses to the English-speaking nations.

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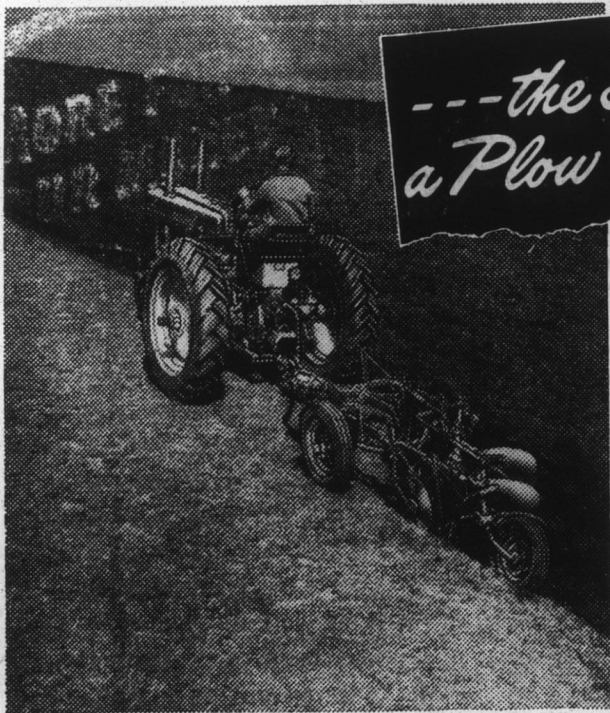
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