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The Cherokee Scout

PAGES
TODAY

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DAM IS ASSURED

Conferees Agree

WORK SHOULD START AT ONCE

**\$1,000,000 Appropriation For Immediate Use Is Finally Approved
And Final Passage Of Revised Measure By Both Houses
Is Now Mere Matter Of Routine**

The Hiwassee Dam is assured, and work on construction will start before the end of the month.

The weeks of worrying while the matter was being threshed out in Washington, came to a happy end today when news was received by the Scout from Washington that the Senate and House Conferees had agreed, late yesterday, to include an appropriation for the dam in the Second Deficiency Bill.

Not only has appropriation been agreed on, but the amendment carrying it, offered by Senator McKellar of Tennessee, and accepted by the Conferees, makes immediate construction of the Hiwassee Dam mandatory.

The appropriation is made as of July 1, last, which means that the work must start at once. The appropriation assures continuation of the work for one year. Before the expiration of that time Congress will have met again and had an opportunity to arrange for additional funds.

Even should the next Congress fail to make a new appropriation, the work will be continued; for the measure approved by the Conferees makes construction imperative, and a balance of more than \$10,000,000 has been made available to the T. V. A. for use as needed. This sum would carry the work well on toward completion.

Agreement by the Conferees of the Senate and House makes final passage of the measure bringing the dam to Murphy a mere matter of routine. Conference reports invariably are accepted by both Senate and House without debate. If a vote is taken at all in such cases, it is only to make the balloting a matter of record along strict party lines.

Almost without exception, however, conference reports on more or less local matters, and the Hiwassee Dam comes under that category are passed by a viva voce vote.

Conference on the Second Deficiency Bill have now been practically concluded,

and the measure, as whipped into shape probably will go back to both Houses of Congress for final action within the next few days. Signature by President Roosevelt is assured, and work on the Hiwassee Dam will start almost immediately thereafter.

Dr. A. E. Morgan Chief Engineer of the TVA, now at Norris, Tenn. told Col. Harry Cooper, yesterday morning, that he was ready to swing into action regarding the Hiwassee Dam within 24 hours after he received word that the measure has been signed.

Final victory for Cherokee County on the Dam project comes after an initial period of despair, followed by weeks of uncertainty, as a result of failure of Representative Weaver to follow the bill closely in its passage through the House of Representatives. The consequence was that the Hiwassee Dam was omitted.

As soon as this word reached Murphy, Mayor Gray called a mass meeting, as a result of which Mr. Weaver and Senators Bailey and Reynolds were deluged with telegrams of protest, and former Mayors E. B. Norvell and Col. Harry P. Cooper were sent to Washington to make personal contact with the Senate.

Both Senators Bailey and Reynolds gave immediate cooperation, and Representative Weaver also promised to do what he could. The Carolina Senators finally got an amendment inserted in the bill, appropriating \$1,000,000 to start work on the Dam here at once.

Other minor amendments also were passed by the Senate, raising the total appropriations from \$34,675,000, as originally passed by the House, to \$38,000,000. This necessitated naming of conferees, and a committee of four; two Senators and two Representatives, were named to thresh the matter out.

Sessions have been held for more than two weeks, final agreement being reached late yesterday. The agreement was effected by a compromise, the final

figures being placed at \$36,000,000. The \$10,000,000 balance is made available in addition to this amount.

The \$1,000,000 appropriation for initial work on the Hiwassee Dam escaped the pruning knife in the compromise. Indeed, the wording of the measure agreed on, making dam construction imperative, names the Hiwassee Dam at the head of the list.

Construction at Chickamauga and Guntersville both in Tennessee also are planned. However, Dr. Morgan admitted the impracticability of immediate work on either of these projects, because uncertainty still exists as to the exact proposed locations.

Concerning the Hiwassee project there is no such drawback, every preliminary detail having been worked out to the last letter.

In addition to ordering dam construction the conferees report also provides that the TVA shall continue its preliminary work on the sites at Whites Creek and Aurora landing, both in Tennessee.

First work on the dam here will consist of moving the ponderous engineering machinery to Fowler's Bend, eighteen miles below Murphy. Coincident with this work carpenters will begin constructing barracks for bachelor workmen, cottages for married employes and their families, a large mess hall where meals will be served to workers at 25 cents each, and a commissary. Merchandise offered for sale in the last named will be limited to "quick needs" goods, such as tobacco stamps, stationery and soft drink.

The work will bring a Federal payroll to this section close to \$40,000 monthly and Murphy, being the nearest town, should profit accordingly.

In addition Cherokee county merchants will be given the preference, provided prices are satisfactory, in the purchase of all materials.

Local labor also will get preference.