

APPEAL TO WEST TO AID WATERWAYS

Senator Newlands Addresses
Letter to Senators From Arid
And Semi-Arid States.

WANTS \$50,000,000 FUND.

This to be Annual—All Interested in
Irrigation Should Support.

Reno, Nev., Oct. 21.—Senator Newlands has addressed a letter to the senators from the arid and semi-arid states calling their attention to the waterway movement for the development of navigation, which is to be emphasized by the presence of the president at the great waterway convention at New Orleans, Oct. 30, and to the importance of the senators and representatives from the arid and semi-arid states conferring together in the interest of their region.

Senator Newlands calls attention to the importance of comprehensive plans that will coordinate the development of the river system in the interest of the country and particularly in the arid region where the storage of flood waters can be made useful both for irrigation and navigation in the mainline of a steamer stream flow.

The urgent creation of a waterway fund of \$50,000,000 is recommended that of that amount the headwaters of the navigable rivers in the arid region should receive about \$15,000,000 annually, which in addition to the reclamation fund will take care of the irrigation of arid lands and public buildings.

Our immediate interest attaches not only to the rivers whose waters ultimately flow into the gulf or the Pacific ocean, but the region controlled by these waterways includes two-thirds

from about 12 states west of the Missouri at the beginning of the next session of Congress with a view to making the arid region a factor in waterway development.

THE LETTER.

The letter is as follows:

Reno, Nev., Oct. 21.
My Dear Senator:—The waterway question will come up for settlement during the next session and I venture to make a few suggestions as to the course to be pursued by the senators from the arid and semi-arid states in the interest of their region.

In the first place, we have from these states nearly one-third of the entire senate, and we have the power to make a decided and important action to benefit the region we represent, whilst aiding in the great movement for a scientific and business-like solution of the water transportation question, which is now so much discussed in the Mississippi valley and on the Atlantic coast.

In the second place, we have been trained by actual experience in irrigation legislation to take hold of the business side of this question, which involves such an expert and business organization of the waterway service as will require comprehensive plans, wise selection of projects that will dovetail into each other as parts of a comprehensive whole, the union and co-operation of the scientific services of the government related to water in a manner as unite their experience and knowledge in some effective way, an ample fund, some continuous work, and a steady co-operation of the nation with states, corporations and individuals as will insure the full exercise of all their power and the enforcement of all their rights in the development of our rivers and streams, streams of water for navigation, but for every industrial and auxiliary use to which civilization can put them, such as the irrigation of arid lands, the drainage of swamp lands, the conservation of forests, protection of soil and waste and the development of water power.

We shaped the reclamation act on those lines and I think it is safe to say that it was the first piece of constructive legislation in the history of the country that was free from the grip of the spoils system, such as has prevailed for years in legislation relating to rivers and harbors and public buildings.

Our immediate interest attaches not only to the rivers whose waters ultimately flow into the gulf or the Pacific ocean, but the region controlled by these waterways includes two-thirds

of the entire area of the country. All the Pacific coast and the Colorado River source in the mountain region of the west; and the large tributaries of the Mississippi, namely, the Missouri (including its tributaries), the Platte, the Arkansas and the Red have their sources in the Rocky mountain region.

RELATION TO IRRIGATION.

Irrigation of arid lands is one of the great uses to which these waters of the Pacific coast and Rocky mountain region are applied. The reclamation fund is not sufficient to push the reclamation work which that is desired, and it is important that in the formation of the new waterways fund, the storage of water upon and the irrigation of arid lands adjacent to the rivers in the arid and semi-arid regions, which are tributary to navigable streams, should be centered upon as an essential part of the development of these streams for purposes of navigation, and that the work upon these headwaters should be prosecuted contemporaneously with the work upon the navigable rivers themselves, and that the new waterway be given a present irrigation fund by a share in the contemplated waterway fund, and would claim the part in the waterway expenditures which fairly belongs to my region.

It is suggested that the movement in this way, with full power to the president to organize the inland waterway service on the lines of co-operation and co-operation above suggested, and creating a fund of \$50,000,000 annually for that purpose, it might be appropriated for the time being as follows:

One-fifth for the Atlantic waterways, including the coastal canals necessary to connect the bays and sounds.

One-tenth for the rivers on the gulf and the inland coastal waterway from the Mississippi to the gulf and the gulf and Mexico, Florida to the Atlantic.

One-tenth for the Great Lakes.

One-fifth for the main Mississippi river, including a connecting canal with the Great Lakes.

One-tenth for the eastern tributaries of the Mississippi.

One-twentieth for the western tributaries of the Mississippi.

One-twentieth for the headwaters and source-streams of the western tributaries of the Mississippi river in the arid and semi-arid region.

One-tenth for the Pacific coast rivers, headwaters and source-streams and source-streams of the Pacific coast rivers in the arid and semi-arid region.

One-tenth for the western tributaries of the Mississippi.

One-twentieth for the headwaters and source-streams of the western tributaries of the Mississippi river in the arid and semi-arid region.

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