

Electro-Industries Of Northwest Essentialities

Future Development Goes Directly on Development in West

Annual interest demands expansion of power production in the Pacific northwest, Ivan Bloch, chief of the industrial and residential development of the Bonneville Power Administration, told representatives of chemical industries and technical men in an address at Chicago, Ill.

Speaking before a meeting of the Chicago section of the Electrical Society, Inc., and other groups, Mr. Bloch said the Pacific northwest states offer a real hydro power potential—firm power at low rates to assure essential national expansion of electro-process industries in coming years.

Preliminary studies, he said, indicate that on the basis of the present trends industrial power use in the area will be doubled or tripled by 1960.

The nation could not have met its war requirements for electro-process materials—aluminum, ferro-alloys and certain essential chemicals—without Pacific northwest power output, he declared. Now, after only a short post-war slump, "The demand on the Bonneville-Grand Coulee system is so great that all equipment is being used to full capacity, with reserves."

Electro-process industry, "In which power is a basic ingredient and raw material, demands extremely low-unit cost uninterrupted supply and large homogeneous blocks of power," he asserted. Potential power development in the Pacific northwest totals an estimated 25,000,000 kilowatts above present output, and less than 3,000,000 will have been harnessed by 1952 even if funds are provided by congress to carry through the now-authorized projects.

The limits of hydro expansion at Niagara Falls and vicinity and of hydro output in the TVA area, chief present locations for electro-process industries, have been about approached the speaker said. Potential development of the St. Lawrence would largely be absorbed by non-industrial requirements in New York State. He discounted steam plants as a source of future energy for electro-process industries because other markets for this type of power are more profitable.

"With the exception of Texas and the southwest, as a very great potential particularly for chemical production, the west remains as the principal location for major electro-process industries in terms of power supplies, of the kind and price required," he said.

Mr. Bloch pointed out that in

January all the major utilities of the Pacific northwest—private and public—had united in a statement of policy which calls for more than doubling the present capacity of the federal power system in the northwest during the next six years.

"The development of the Columbia river and its tributaries is part of a detailed plan," he said. "By the construction of multiple-purpose dams, the waters of the Columbia and its tributaries could irrigate some three and a half million more acres in the region. It will permit deep draft and barge navigation from the Pacific ocean inland to Lewiston, Idaho, a distance of 470 miles.

"In this huge development, the revenues from power sales will not only repay to the treasury of the United States the costs of power installations—at dams and for transmission lines—but will pay for so-called joint facilities at each dam," he declared. He added that such revenues would furnish a major subsidy for irrigating now-arid lands. "In other words," he said "the taxpayers of the nation can expect to have their monies fully repaid on the investment which so far has been made and will be made for the full-scale endeavor."

Crofts Show 4 to 7 Blooms In Forcing

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hoffeldt have returned from a trip to Seattle where they visited the greenhouse that was forcing a quantity of their Croft bulbs (size 7s, 2 years old). They told the Pilot these bulbs have been developed from one clone over a period of four years, and now have over 11,000 bulbs produced from one mother bulb. These bulbs at Seattle had from four to seven buds and forced evenly in the greenhouse. Some of the size 8 bulbs from this same clone were being forced at Beltsville and Ohio State College.

The Hoffeldts also visited a number of greenhouses and fields in both Oregon and Washington, and none of the green houses visited, have had any trouble to bring their lilies in for Easter.

One greenhouse visited in the state of Washington had some Creoles which they were forcing. These Creoles had fleck and were covered with aphids. It was hard to understand, the Hoffeldts said, why some growers would bring in the Creoles and jeopardize a whole industry. It was gratifying to the Hoffeldts to note in the March 18 newsletter to nurserymen that officials of both Oregon and Washington are considering a quarantine on diseased stock.

At Corvallis, the Hoffeldts saw every individual according to Fred Ing made on forcing of Crofts. They returned to Brookings by way of Cottage Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Kessler returned late Thursday from a trip which took them to Eugene, Salem and Portland.

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