

### BENEFIT TO BE GAINED FROM PROPOSED BILLS SET FORTH IN DETAIL

#### Secretary of Interior Gives Views on Development of Resources.

### WEST TO COME INTO OWN

#### Utilization of Water Power Is Pointed Out as One of Important Part of Future Program.

By Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of Interior.

Two years ago I presented in my report what might be termed a program of internal development with respect to land; a railroad into the interior of Alaska; a coal-leasing law for Alaska; a new reclamation act extending the time within which payments were to be made by water users and under which land would be forced into use; a water power bill governing the use of public lands for hydroelectric development; a general development bill providing for a practicable method of disposing of our oil, gas, coal, phosphate, and potash without danger of monopoly or nonuse.

Of this program the larger portion has been adopted, and the last two have been successful in the house. The plan is to make the west help in its own development. The royalties from oil, gas, coal and phosphate lands and from water-power developed on public lands should be used for the reclaiming of the arid country and then divided with the states.

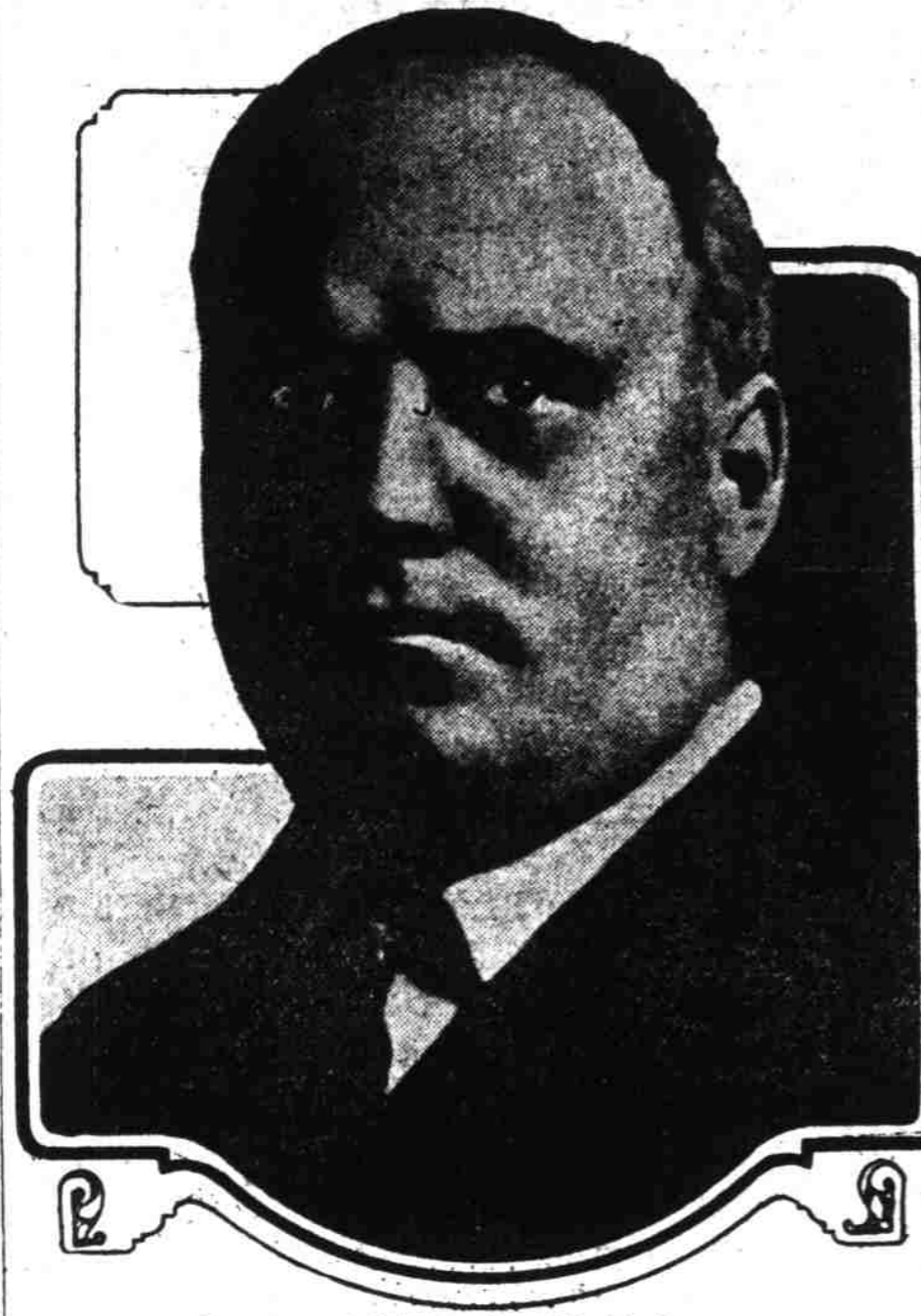
#### Alaska Is Being Opened Up.

The Alaskan railroad is being built. The Alaskan coal leasing bill has already been put into effect in a small way by the granting of permits for the operation of small and isolated tracts for industrial and local use. The lease under which the larger fields which have been reserved may be taken up has been drafted in cooperation with some of the most eminent mine operators of the country. Its utilization must, of course, await the opening of means of transportation. The new reclamation act has brought courage to the water users, who found their difficulties almost overwhelming, so new and strange to the people of our northern hood are the problems of irrigation.

#### Orchards Need Nourishment.

The orange orchards of California and the apple orchards of Oregon and Washington, not to speak of other draw heavily upon the soil. And for its replenishing the orchardists are buying phosphate rock in Florida, which is carried to them by water and then inland, while in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming we have under withdrawal nearly 3,000,000 acres of land that are unutilized except for phosphate rock. There is no law today under which this can be secured. In Montana and elsewhere throughout the

### NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT MEASURE IS POINTED OUT



Secretary of Interior Franklin K. Lane.

west are smelters which produce the sulphuric acid necessary for the conversion of this rock into phosphate fertilizer. So that the development of this industry waits only upon the passage of a law which will put this mineral at the command of those who need it.

Our coal lands are now subject to sale at appraised values based upon an estimate of the content of the land. This is at best an expert's guess, and converts each purchase into a gamble, both on the part of the government and the purchaser.

#### Bill Will Aid the Miner.

The bill does not exclude this method, but supplements it with a simple provision by which the purchaser, instead of buying at hazard, may pay a royalty upon what he produces. It gives the man of moderate means an opportunity to secure a mine.

As to oil and gas, the house committee had extensive hearings at which no practical man engaged in the industry offered any objection to the plan proposed. The existing law, under which such lands have been taken up, is to be characterized by no plottier word than as a plain mischief. Oil is found hundreds and sometimes thousands of feet below the surface of the earth, yet the law applicable to its acquisition is the placer law, intended to apply to the

first, an exclusive permit for drilling, and upon discovery within a given time an area be given as a reward for proving the ground and adjacent lands leased upon a royalty basis.

#### Lease of Land Is Suggested.

There is another change to be made against the existing law more serious than its unworkability. It is supremely wasteful. If the land is leased some control can be exercised over the manner of development. Millions of barrels of oil have been wasted by being allowed to flow into the streams, by being mixed with water or by evaporation. There has been no such waste, I am told, in any other mining. And petroleum is a priceless resource, for it can never be replaced.

Accompanying the general development bill in its passage through the house was a measure intended to promote hydroelectric development on public lands, named after the chairman of the public lands committee of the house, Mr. Ferris. This bill was called for by the fact that existing legislation permitted only a revocable permit to be granted for such use, and

this was regarded by engineers and financiers as too tentative and hazardous a tenure where millions of money were needed for the installation of the necessary plant.

#### Ferris Measure Meets Difficulty.

The Ferris bill meets this difficulty by proposing a lease of these lands for a definite term of 50 years. The objection is made that the lands should be given outright. To this there are several answers of substance: No enlightened government gives such a franchise. There is danger, very real danger, too, of a complete monopolization of such power sites if the lands go forever from the people. The value of water power is not yet fully realized, and its full value can not be known at this stage in our industrial life.

The purpose of the government in transferring these lands is to secure their use, because it does not choose to use them itself, but the time may come when it may be most desirable to the full development of our life that they shall be operated by the nation or the states or the municipalities in the

states, and to transfer them forever would cast a burden upon the future which would be unforfeitable, and, moreover, unnecessary. The people desire these lands used, not held as a mere basis for speculation in stocks or bonds. Where there is need for such a plant the lands should be available on most generous terms.

#### Plant Could Be Bought.

At the end of the 50-year period what becomes of the plant? If it has been so managed as to best serve the country there would be no reason why the holding company should not have a new lease. If it had not been so managed the plant should be bought at its value by whoever the new lessee might be, or by those who took over the lands on which it was situated, the state, for instance.

As already said, with the passage of these two measures there will be no land or resource that will not be at the full service of the people. And yet, the romantic enterprise of revealing America will not be done. To get from our resources their fullest use—this is our goal. And this is nothing

less than a challenge to the capacity of a democracy.

#### Pastor's Wife Passes Away.

Roseburg, Or., Sept. 27.—Mrs. Elizabeth Howard, aged 59, wife of Rev. James Howard, pastor of the Baptist church at Myrtle Creek, died in Roseburg on Monday. She is survived by her husband, six daughters, Mrs. J. D. Baker and Mrs. A. F. Simmons of New Pine Creek, Or.; Mrs. L. E. Millidge of North Bend; Mrs. J. C. Broll of Reno, Nev.; Mrs. O. H. Pickens and Mrs. S. S. Wardwell of Roseburg, and one son, Clifton, who resides with his parents.

#### Dalles Girl Is Hurt.

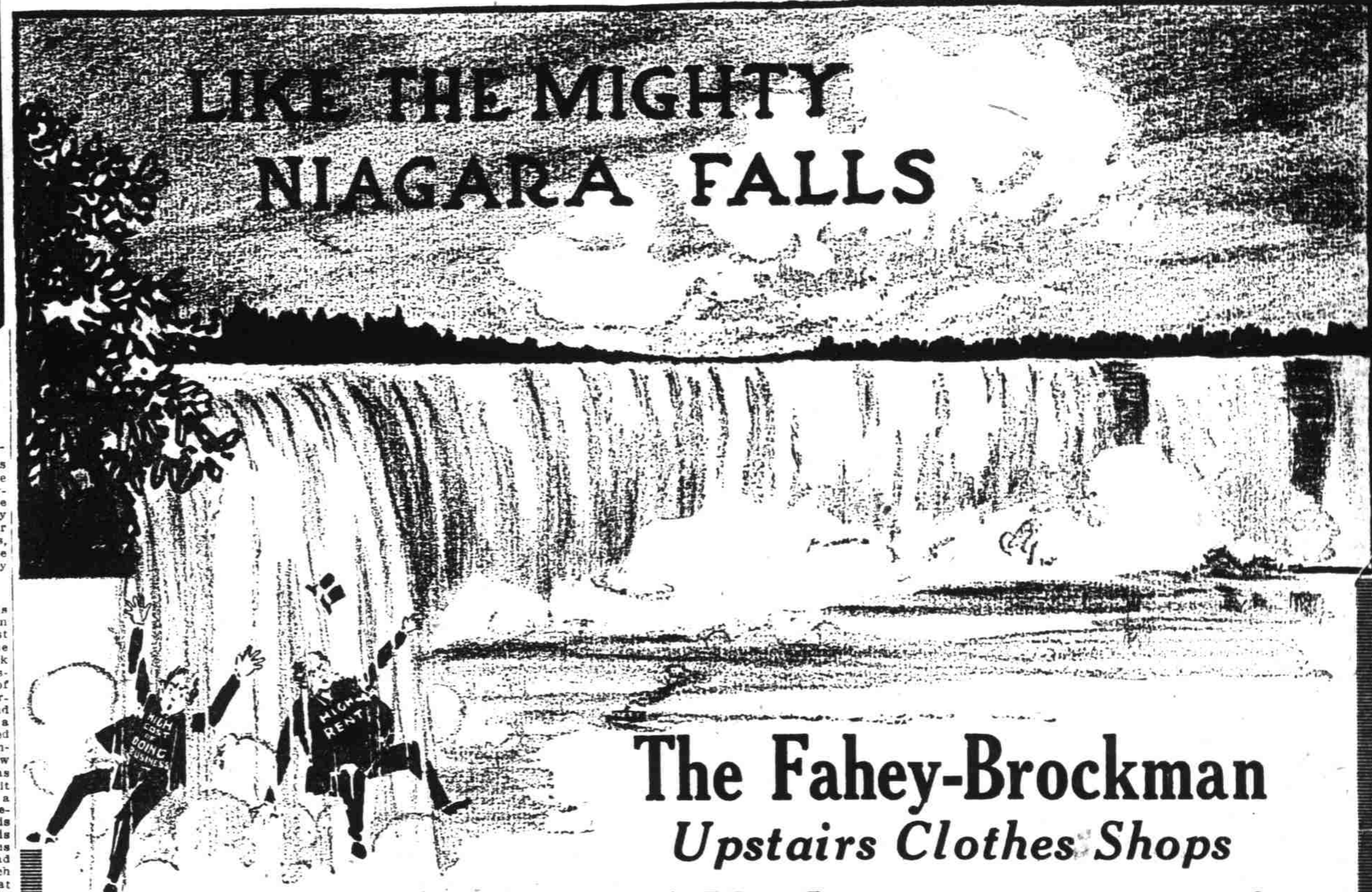
The Dalles, Or., Sept. 27.—Miss Frieda Herbring, a popular local girl, jumped from an auto in which she was riding Saturday night when she thought the car was going to strike a tree, and sustained a broken collar bone and other painful injuries. She was riding on the running board of the machine.

### Kansas City Put in Spendthrift Class

#### Thrift Expert Says Citizens' Savings Accounts of \$7,000,000 Are But Third of What They Should Be.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 27.—(U. P.)—Kansas City was put in the spendthrift class today by W. H. Waterman, thrift campaign representative at the American Bankers' convention.

According to Mr. Waterman, the average Kansas City citizen saves only about a third as much as he should. Compared with the average Philadelphian or Bostonian, he is a happy-go-lucky sort of person, who scatters his income in every direction. "You have only \$7,000,000 on deposit in the savings banks," the thrift expert said. "The amount should be at least three times as much." Waterman says the man with the income of from \$1500 to \$2500 is the worst spendthrift.



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