

Northwestern States Seen Big Potential Customers for Gas

By UNITED PRESS

The Pacific Northwest states appear to be a big potential customer in the natural gas market, but where the gas will come from still is anybody's guess.

Alberta and British Columbia look to be the closest source but Texas gas is getting strong support. All three might possibly fill the bill if Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana want the rarified fuel.

Recommendation Made

The Alberta Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation board has recommended to the provincial legislature that the West Coast Transmission Co. be allowed to export 300,000,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

However, N. Henry Gellert, president of the Seattle Gas Co., was skeptical that this would mean anything to Seattle. He said it would be "fantastic" to believe that a pipeline could be built to serve Vancouver, B. C., or Spokane with only 300,000,000,000 cubic feet of gas available.

Building Plan Told

The Alberta provincial board's action prompted the Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp. to announce it was starting construction this year on a \$130,000,000 pipeline to deliver natural gas from northern Texas to Northwest cities by the fall of 1953. Ray C. Fish of Houston, chairman of the board of the Texas firm, said he had a "verbal commitment" from Gellert to sell the gas to the Seattle firm. He said he was seeking a similar commitment from the Portland Gas Co.

Meanwhile, in Calgary, Frank C. McMahon, president of West Coast Transmission, said his firm will go ahead with plans to deliver gas to Vancouver and U. S. cities despite Fish's announcement.

Only One Winner

"There is only one winner in this game," McMahon said. "Only one company will be given a U. S. permit to serve the area."

However, McMahon admitted

Bonneville Dam Produces Record Kilowatt Output

Portland—(U.P.)—Power generation at Bonneville dam during March totalled 418,843,000 kilowatt hours, setting a new record, Frank M. Lewis, resident engineer, reported Saturday.

Lewis said the previous high for the power project since all 10 generating units began operation Dec. 15, 1943, was in January of this year when 407,544,000 kilowatt hours of power were generated.

"Bonneville dam used practically 100 per cent of its capability to produce the record output," Lewis said.

that the Alberta gas surplus would not be sufficient to supply proposed markets at Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and Spokane areas.

McMahon pointed that gas wells are being brought in around Fort St. John, B. C., and they will be used to make up the balance required to make a pipeline from Alberta a paying proposition. The proposed route of the 1,367-mile line passes directly through Fort St. John, he added.

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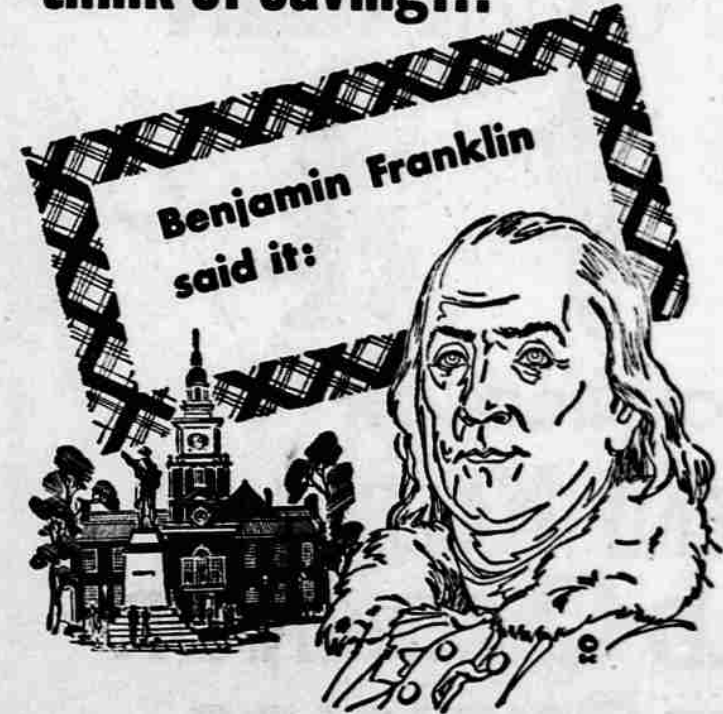
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