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THE CHEMICAL PLANT AT BONNEVILLE

Mayors of the mid-Columbia area, from Portland to The Dalles, want to see something done about the Pierce bill to establish a \$1,000,000 federal sodium-chloride plant at Cascade Locks. Not that they favor the project, as opposed to a private industry development, but because they want to dispose of the iPierce bill, one way or the other, so it can no longer block construction of the Chipman Chemical and Pennsylvania Salt plant at the same location.

These two companies have acquired a 120-acre site. They are ready to proceed this summer with construction of a \$750,000 first unit. They can have it built by late fall, ready to give employment to some 60 men and to use a considerable block of Bonneville power. But they will do nothing whatever until the threat of federal competition is removed. "We can't and won't compete against the treasury of the United States," is the way they put it. Naturally.

If Congressman Pierce is still

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negotiation and arbitration should be used in acquiring distribution systems," he added, "but when that becomes impossible the law provides a means through condemnation. After all, it's your money that is being spent. It's up to you to determine the course you wish to pursue.

"We'll give you all the information we have, but we won't go out and campaign for power districts or take sides between districts and the privately owned utilities. We're in sympathy with you, but as a federal agency, we must take a more or less neutral attitude."

Has Applications

Banks also announced that he has applications for Bonneville power from several private companies and industries, as well as from cities and P.U.D.'s, and that between now and June 24 he will take typical contracts to Washington, D. C., to submit to Secretary of the Interior Ickes and the federal power commission for approval.

Edwin King, master of the Washington State Grange, which is in session at Vancouver, told the P.U.D. commissioners the people of Washington are ready for public power, that it's just a question of when and how.

Attacking the private companies for stalling and refusing to negotiate with the P.U.D.'s, he said, "If the companies won't sell at a reasonable price, the only thing we can do is condemn." He also warned against losing control of Pacific Northwest power to the big financial interests of the Northeast.

"The power is here, the control should be here," he said.

Three representatives of bond firms spoke briefly, all but Prescott avoiding commitments to purchase utility revenue bonds which Washington districts plan to issue in acquiring distribution systems.

Legion Climb Plans Develop

At the first general organization meeting of the Legion Climb Committee held at the Chamber of Commerce Monday night plans were outlined to hasten the opening of the road to Tilly Jane by July 1 and also for securing more parking space than was available last year.

The Climb Committee anticipates one of the largest crowds in the history of the climb to be present Saturday night, July 15. Governor Charles Sprague is expected to be present to enjoy the festivities.

To help finance the Climb colorful Kerchiefs will soon be placed on sale in various Hood River stores by the Climb Committee.

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determined to press his plan to put Uncle Sam into the weed-killing business, in spite of the unfavorable reaction of the department of agriculture and residents along the Columbia, he should offer no objection to the congressional action sought by mid-Columbia mayors. He should, on the contrary, welcome it.—Oregon Journal.

P. U. D. HEADS URGE EVANS FOR DAM

(Continued From Page One)
Bonneville power and how they want to distribute it.
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