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Ayer's Water Storage

Official Report of County Surveyor Breakenridge to the Board of Supervisors.

Enough Water Can Be Saved to Iritigate the Country From Phoenix to the Colorado River.

County Surveyor W. M. Breakenridge, who was appointed by the board of supervisors to investigate and report upon the water system of the valley and its various reservoirs for water, submitted the following able and concise report.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County:

Dear Sirs,—I beg to leave the following report in regard to water storage in Maricopa County:

After a careful examination of the river, I find the river just below the confluence of the Tonto Creek with Salt river, that the river runs through a box canyon the sides of which are nearly vertical for about 100 feet and then slope back at about 1:1 slope. It is about 300 feet wide at the river edge and the bed rock is very near the surface. At this point a dam could be erected 300 feet high that would back up the water up Salt river to the point where the river enters through the Sierra Amana mountains, a distance of sixteen miles. The valley divides and as it is irregular, I have no good reason to believe the dam site is not feasible to the dam site and measurements taken up the river.

First stream, average width, 2,660 feet; average depth, 180 feet.

Then two and one-half miles, average width, one mile; average depth, 140 feet.

Then one mile, average width, 1,890 feet; average depth, 190 feet.

Then two and one-half miles, average width, two miles; average depth seventy feet.

Total, sixteen miles on Salt river.

Besides the water would back up Tonto creek a distance of ten miles; average width, one and one-fourth miles; average depth eighty feet.

Total on both streams in cubic feet, 8,656,000,000. Add to this to pay per cent. for the water that would back up Fain creek, Saltanuy and other streams and gulleys, would give a total of 105,665,000,000, making the largest reservoir in the United States.

Limestone and sandstone are in abundance and about 600 feet below the proposed dam site a box canyon empties into the river from the south. The material that would have to be taken out of the sides and the roof to build the dam for a works weir for the river the level quality of the box canyon, so that no water fed from the river after the reservoir was filled over the dam, thus obviating all wear by water on the dam.

There is plenty of timber in the Sierra Amana mountains for all building purposes. . . .

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