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education, health, flood control, light and power, communications and so on, were combined in one regional administration.

Administration on the Spot

The headquarters of the regional administration was no longer to be in Washington. It was moved to the spot and operated there in co-operation with local bodies. This was something new in government and proved wonderfully effective. The primary purpose was to harness the rivers so that they would not run wild, causing devastating floods. But the channelling of the rivers and streams and the making of dams was to provide electric power, which meant lighting throughout the region, household machinery such as electric water-pumps, heaters, washing-machines, and power for industries which would have to be set up and would employ many people. It would provide communications so that goods could be sent by water to sea.

Because they thought of the problem as a whole and had the idea from the first of raising the life of the people, the starting of the building of dams was preceded by a great change. Not only were 40,000 local workmen engaged, but they were provided with good residences, with training classes, and good food.

The waters of the whole region are now controlled by 29 dams. When spring rains send torrents rushing down the mountains, threatening to submerge towns and villages in the valley, an operator in the control room of Hiwassee Dam hears this message: "Hold back all the water of the Hiwassee River. Keep it out of the Tennessee." He presses a button and the steel gates of the dam close. The same operation controls the Cherokee Dam, while the operator of the Chickamauga Dam, just above the industrial centre of Chattanooga, hears another message: "Release water to make room for waters from above."

Much Land Reclaimed

The water held and harnessed serves many purposes. The dams are broad and beautiful lakes across which steamers and pleasure boats and barges carrying produce go back and forth. Where towns and farms were submerged by the making of the dam, the people who lost their lands were presented with new tracts for farms and towns on lake shores, and not only financed but personally assisted by experts in laying these out in the most modern fashion. There are comfortable new houses, well-laid roads and agricultural lands systematically reclaimed and scientifically stocked and worked. Eight million acres of land formerly worn down by erosion have been reclaimed and turned into flourishing pastures. The higher slopes of the mountains from which the forests have been cut have been rewooded to hold the water.

The total cost was 700,000,000 dollars. The money was advanced by the Federal Government to the Tennessee Valley Authority but is being paid back out of the increased wealth produced by the regeneration of the region. Thus far, revenue from the sale of electric power is over 100,000,000 dollars. It is estimated that the whole project can be paid off in from 30 to 60 years through the sale of electric power alone. And this is being done without surrendering the principle of private enterprise. The privately-owned electric companies, which

originally fought the Tennessee Valley Authority, are now making more money than they did before it was inaugurated through the general increase in the demand for power and electricity which spread outward with the growing prosperity of the region.

So elated are all our people—labourers, farmers, businessmen alike—with the success of the Tennessee Valley Authority that we are considering the remaking of seven other regions in the same way. The Columbia River has already been harnessed by the Grand Coulee and Bonneville dams, and an authority is proposed for that region. It is proposed to establish also the Missouri River Valley Authority, which will do for the

watersheds of the Mississippi what the Tennessee Valley Authority has done for the South.

I have told this story because I think it will interest you, and it may have some application to your country, though, of course, your problems of erosion, flood control, and power development are on a much smaller scale. In this new world of ours there is an increasing necessity for one country to learn from another. Only by studying our common problems and sharing our knowledge and experience can we build those foundations upon which alone permanent peace and well-being can be established in the world.

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