Tomorrow Is the Big Day for 2 Irrigation Districts

Central California News Editor

Tomorrow is a day of jubilation for farmers of the South San Joa-

The Tri-Dam chain of water barriers and powerhouses on the middle fork of the Stanislaus River will be dedicated-a 52 million dollar project conceived, financed, and constructed by the two small districts without government financial aid.

The project, now in partial operation, will be in full swing next year and during the next 50 years will pay for itself through the sale of electric power to the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. at the rate of 25 million dollars a year. It is this sale of power which backed the revenue bonds sold on the open market to investors.

Fifty years from now the two districts will own the chain of dams and powerhouses, and the revenue from the power will go

Development of the power was secondary in the minds of the farmers of the district. They wanted water for dry years, and they wanted protection from flood and too much water in years of heavy mountain run-offs. The power development was a means to the end. Now farmers have a water conservation plan paying for itself, and one which will make money for their grandchildren. after the turn of the century. It could very well be that when the power revenue starts accruing to the irrigation districts after the bonds are paid off, it will be sufficient to eliminate, or nearly eliminate, the tax levies in the districts.

All this was not accomplished without a struggle and without

Particularly in the South San Joaquin Irrigation District was there opposition. This came from some of the voters of the district who were not in favor of an alliance with a public utility company; who were too in taker of an adversariance of the construction would mean liens on their lands with possible disastrous consequences, and from some who were skeptical that their small districts should underake such a Landmarks Are Tulloch Dam Is

It took education, explanations, and series after series of meetings in both districts to show voters that the plan, though costly, was feasible, practical, and necessary. Voters of both districts gave their overwhelming approval in 1952 after preliminary plans were pre-

Then came the second, and almost fatal obstacle—financing.

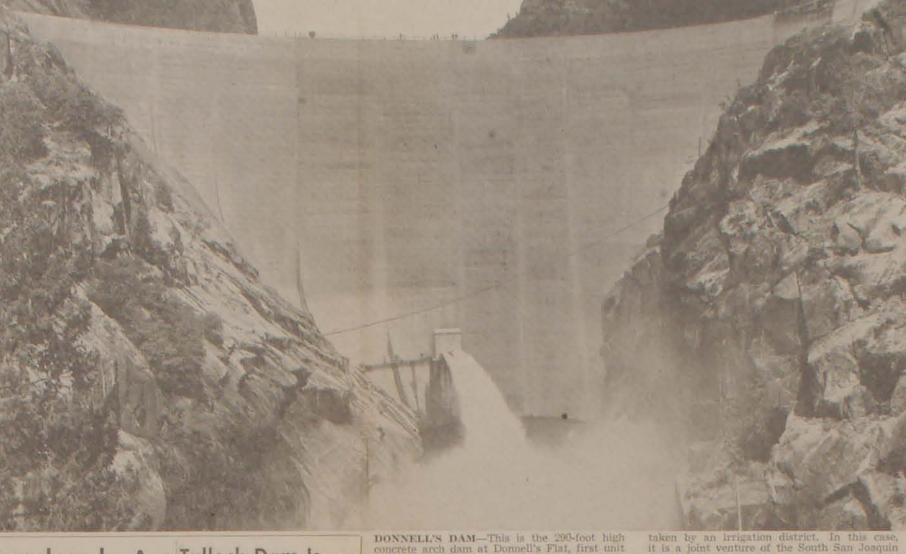
Because of an uiforseen tight money market, the bonds were scheduled to be offered on the market just after interest rates went up. The \$40,000,000 estimate rose to \$47,000,000, and then to \$50,000,000 estimate rose to \$47,000,000, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persistence, refusal to give up, and the faith of Engineer Bert But persist

Tri-Dam Interest Bill Is \$31,000,000

How much interest are the Oak-|zler as joint managers and associ- of modern times during construc- steel outlet pipes.

How much interest are the Oals riler as joint managers and associated and South San Joaquin Irris atos, on a bid of approximately again districts paying for money 350 interest rate.

The answer les \$31,010.875 over the district of \$83,000 over 100 over 10



Irrigation Key Tulloch, which lies about 45

miles down river from Beardsley is Donnell's Dam Is

concrete arch dam at Donnell's Flat, first unit in the chain of three dams and powerhouses on the middle fork of the Stanislaus Rived. Their construction is the biggest project ever under-

and Oakdale Irrigation districts. Behind this dam lies a reservoir, and downstream is the powerhouse. The site is not easily accessible.

Rush days—the flume line of the color of the water passes of the water passes through and Stanislaus Water Co., which once ran from Donnell's through two 114-inch diameter penstocks into the powerhouse, or penstocks into the powerhouse, or leased through a low-level outlet through two six-inch diameter pipe to furnish water for fish life in the river or that which will be steel outlet pipes.

STATE OFFICIAL SPEAKER AT DEDICATION

Harvey O. Banks, director of the State Division of Water Resources, will be the principal speaker tomorrow at the Tri-Dam dedication ceremony.

The program is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Beardsley Powerhouse site.

Also on the program will be N. R. Sutherland, president of the



has expended more than a million dollars constructing Tri-Dam Project power transmission facilities to transmit electricity generated at the project to the San Joaquin Valley area.

In addition, \$360,000 has been spent on the Curtis Substation loall cated at Standard City, It was completed in 1954 to provide needed power for the work at the Tri-

All lines out of the project feed into a 110,000-volt line, termed a "110 KV line" by the experts.

The line starts at the Donnell's project, extends down past the Beardsley Dum past Sonora and ties into the PG&E's Melones powerhouse. From that point it runs down into the Valley where it ties into the company's River-

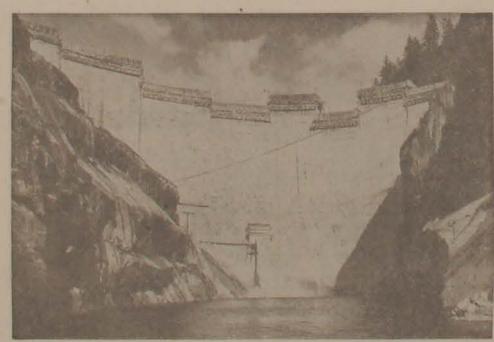
It turns north from that point and finally ties into the Bellota Substation where it is distributed to many San Joaquin Valley

By contracting to purchase the power output of the Tri-Dam power plants the PG&E made postible the sale of bonds for construction of the irrigation water

storage project. In the early stages of the Tri-Dam construction PG&E installed a 50,000-volt line from the company's Spring Gap powerhouse to supply power for the electrically-operated equipment. When the Tri-Dam projects were completed the 60,000 volt line was converted to the 110,000-volt line which now has been placed in permanent use.



The TRI-DAM PROJECT



DONNELS DAM, use of three in the giant project, is pictured here under construction. Now completed, this massive concrete arch rises 287 feet above stream bed, It symbolizes the opening of a new era for Central Californians.

SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

MANTECA, CALIF

John E. Vrieling	President
Harvey Hale	
Manuel F, Simas	
Dewey Henson	Director
Henry Aksland	
Mrs. Alice Hill Secr	etary-Treasurer
A. MacNeil General	Superintendent
Bernice R. Derickson Ass	essor-Collector
Jacobs, Cavalero & Dietrich At	forneys at Law

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

OAKDALE, CALIF.

Edwin Koster
Robert B. Washburn Director
Victor O. Wedgeertner Director
The state of the s
C. W. Quinley Secretary, Assessor, Collector
R. E. Hartley Chief Engineer
A. C. Holbrook Gen. Superintendent
Milo A. KroegerTreasurer

Minasian & Minasian Afterneys at Law

Combining progress with sound business methods

With the completion of Donnells, Beardsley and Tulloch dams, a great new achievement is about to be dedicated.

From the western slope of the High Sierras, on the middle fork of the Stanislaus River, the people of the Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts now have sufficient water for most years. So ample are these storage facilities that they are now assured of hold-over water for dry years. This means an opportunity is presented for more diversified farming and full production from all of

Perhaps of greater importance is the fact that the entire project will not increase the water users' rate, nor was government aid needed. Sale of power from this project will finance the construction cost. Neither will there be any encumbrance on the land or the project. In fact, the residents of these districts may look forward to the day when funds from sale of electric power will complete full retirement of construction bonds, and these funds may then be diverted toward virtual tax free districts.

The directors and staffs of the irrigation districts interested are to be highly commended for their vision and business acumen.