

U. S. WATCHING HOOSIER STATE POWER SYSTEM

Hot Problem Solution Awaited by Federal Commission.

By Earl E. Sparling
Times Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—The Federal Government is watching the development of an interstate super-power system in Indiana and surrounding territory.
First step in the development was taken when work started on a 132-kilowatt electric transmission line from Michigan City to South Bend. This line will connect northern Indiana directly with Chicago.
And, according to the Indiana Utilities Association, it will be a link in a system which will eventually spread out over not only Indiana and Illinois, but Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.
Whether such a wide-flung system successfully can be operated without undue friction between the various State governments is a question that is causing the Federal Power Commission much thinking.
The proposed Conowingo dam, on the Susquehanna River, in Maryland, would supply power to both

Maryland and Pennsylvania. Because it is on a navigable stream the Federal Government can claim control.
The commission will have to find some tentative answer soon in the giant Conowingo power dam controversy.
But Maryland people are insisting on a State's right to regulate its own power systems.
The controversy has held up the

\$52,000,000 construction more than nine months, and the end is not yet in sight.
One solution of such a problem would be for Congress to delegate State utilities commissions as special agencies of the Federal Government. This solution was suggested at the recent meeting of the National Public Utilities Commissioners Association in Washington.
"But," questions O. C. Merrill,

Federal Power commission executive secretary, "will the plan work? Even though it works for a while will it continue to work when more than two states are involved?"
The spreading out of the Calumet Gas and Electric Company into Indiana and half a dozen other states, though not under any Federal control, may answer the question. If Indiana and neighboring states manage to get along peacefully with

a joint power system the Federal Government will probably be willing to keep hands off elsewhere.

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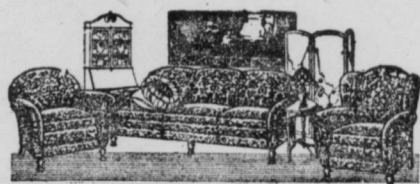
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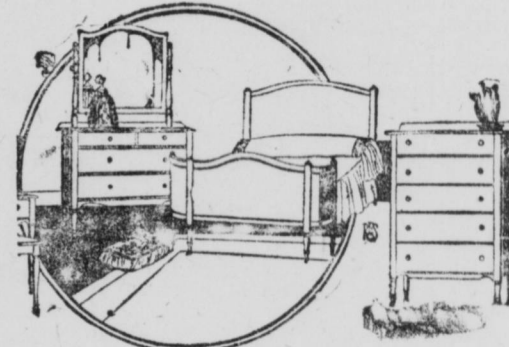
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