

## Water: 99 And 44-100 Per Cent Pure

TO A STATE parched and dry from one of the worst drought disasters in history, the action of North Carolina's Council of State was like the answer to a rainmaker's prayer. Prompted by Director Ben Douglas of the Department of Conservation & Development, it allocated a special fund of \$25,000 for a hurry-up, Manteo-Murphy study of the state's water resources.

It was about time. Water shortages have reached the emergency stage in many sections—particularly the northern Piedmont. Flow of the Yadkin River, Winston-Salem's chief water source, is lower than at any time in a half century. Greensboro's Lake Norman stands at 4.8 feet below the spillway. Over mile after mile of Piedmont farm land there is nothing but cracked earth and brown crops.

The \$25,000 will be used to help gather important facts about the present plight. Findings will be presented to the 1955 legislature.

But the time has come for North Carolina to take an even broader view of its water problem. As Mr. Douglas has said, the state needs an overall survey that would not only help alleviate present shortages, but control pollution as well and guarantee adequate water supplies to meet the long range needs of Tar Heel agriculture, industry and the general public.

Overnight solutions for these long range problems will be impossible to find. Careful, patient planning will be needed. It will mean reforestation in some sections, water shed development in others and the promotion of adequate water pollution laws. It might even involve a revival of some form of the Central Carolina Water Authority bill killed in the 1953 General Assembly.

Unless North Carolina begins to think seriously about its water resources—and tomorrow's need it will suffer in more ways than one.

For example, few industries will locate in an area where water is scarce. During World War II, when the nation was trying to turn up new factories everywhere it could, over 300 plants had to be moved or abandoned in different parts of the country because they could not get the supplies of fresh, pure water they needed to make their goods.

For instance, it takes 64,000 gallons of water to make a ton of paper.

It takes 18 barrels of water to produce a barrel of oil.

It takes 250 tons of water to make one ton of steel. Industry uses more water than anything else in the world—and most of it has to be better than 99 and 44/100 per cent pure.

It is estimated that North Carolina's textile, aluminum and paper industries alone use five times the yearly requirement of water for household consumers. The pollution problem is perhaps even more serious than the supply problem. Industrial refuse, municipal sewage and sludge resulting from poor watershed management have not only made the water in most of North Carolina's streams unfit for human consumption but also unfit for industrial use.

But answers to these water problems can be found. It will simply take an aroused citizenry to demand adequate appropriations for research, sterner laws and cooperative program planning.

In a nutshell, it will mean strengthening North Carolina's water resource position by looking ahead and applying initiative and inventiveness in anticipation of tomorrow's great needs.

## REPORTS ON THREE SENATE CAMPAIGNS

# In Minnesota Benson's Farm Policy Is The Big Issue

By JOSEPH ALMIN

MORSA

IF YOU want to get an idea of the impact of the Eisenhower farm program on the politics of Minnesota, it is not a bad idea to come to Kanabec County.

This reporter came to Kanabec County with Minnesota's Republican senatorial nominee, Val Benson, a solid, humorous, intelligent, hardworking fair-minded man who does high credit to his party.

Benson is an Icelandic by origin, learned among other things in the great Icelandic saga; and he was chanting the sagas' bold rhythms as he pulled into the town of Kanabec, a little town of 1,000 people.

From the burning of the town of Kanabec, a town of 1,000 people, it was an odd transition to the pleasant, quiet, tree-shaded Mora main street.

The first stop was the office of the county weekly, where the shrewd young editor, gave the statistics that posed Val Benson's problem. In 1952, Kanabec County gave Dwight D. Eisenhower 2,200 votes to 1,700 votes for Adlai Stevenson. But in the recent primary, when the turn-out was of course smaller, there were only 908 Republican votes for Val Benson against 1,250 Democratic-Farmer Labor votes for Sen. Hubert Humphrey.

PRICE CUTS HURT  
"I hope I'm wrong, but I'm afraid it shows the trend," said the editor. "And if this is the trend, then his cause is the farm support policy. That really hurt our people here."

After a neighborly cup of coffee in the pressroom, Val Benson strode down Main St., shaking hands as he went, to the town hall where he was waiting. A crowd of perhaps 300, hard-worked but upstanding-looking men and women greeted the Republican candidate in a friendly fashion, and listened quietly to his speech.

"Support like" was the Benson theme; and he was eloquent and effective in his plea until he came to the farm program, admitting that Secretary of Agriculture Benson had made bad mistakes, but rather lamely arguing that like must still be supported.

All the same, there was applause at the finish. After the speech came coffee and a fairly glowing report from the Republican ladies gathered in Ed and Esther's Cafe, and then the next item on the schedule was a plowing contest.

The contest was held on a green hill in a sun-armed landscape of neat houses and barns and still-green fields and woodlots glowing with autumn's cock pheasant colors. Twenty or more farmers had gathered for the contest, and Benson made his speech again, shortly but effectively, in the interval between the plowing and the beginning of the tractor-driving contest, a sun-burned, sallow, quiet-spoken young dairy farmer, stood on one side, listening to Benson with a group of his friends.

His plowing success had pleased him, although he was deprecating about it — "Hell," he said, "It's like putt'n' in corn. You never think you're doing any good till it comes up." But he was not pleased by the plea for Republican votes.

"I hear," he remarked sardonically, "that Secretary Benson says the farmers are better off. I set, new car and new God knows what." But when J. D. was asked whether the winner of the plowing contest was ever since his milk price went down after the support was dropped? His friends agreed he was better off in the same way. Finally, the winner of the plowing contest gave a very grin, and summed up without ranting:

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From the plowing contest, Benson went to call on the county banker, J. D. as everyone called him, a kindly serious, older man who gave the other side of the picture. The deposits in J. D.'s bank were still increasing. His \$400,000 of veteran's loans had been paid down to \$100,000 without a single default. Kanabec County was "doing all right," and the only ones who were "really" hurting were the farmers running four or five different notes.

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The battle for a new television set, new car and new God knows what. But when J. D. was asked whether the winner of the plowing contest was ever since his milk price went down after the support was dropped? His friends agreed he was better off in the same way. Finally, the winner of the plowing contest gave a very grin, and summed up without ranting:

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