

Tuesday, December 29, 1942

### Brown Speaks To Rotary Club.

Junior Baseball Players Are Guests

Rockwood Brown, former chairman of the state water conservation board, told members of the Billings Rotary club at the organization's noon luncheon meeting at the Commercial club Monday that arranging and signing a compact with water commissions of North Dakota and Wyoming, which will be the theme of a meeting of these two commissions along with Montana commissioners here Tuesday, could not be approached hurriedly and must be thoroughly understood in regard to individual rights before being arranged.

Members of the junior baseball team sponsored by the club, which won the junior city league for the second consecutive season this year, along with Joe L. Hagerman, chairman of the American Legion baseball committee, and Rev. Welton, junior coach, were guests of the club.

Some 13 delegates to the water conservation meet, and Clyde McMasser, E. M. Wood, L. A. Nutting and C. H. Townsend, visiting Rotarians, were also club guests.

Legion Commander J. H. Delano introduced Welton, now high school coach at Terry, who in turn introduced Ben Cooke, Don Larson, William Moore, Jack and Ed Robinson, Victor Kennedy, Robert Swain, Jim Langston and Victor Church, members of the championship team.

Delano presented Rotary President W. F. Koch trophies from the club and the American legion.

"The water for irrigation situation in Montana and Wyoming, especially Montana," Brown told club members, "presents a very complex proposition that cannot be treated out by hurried legislation."

He explained that since a pact is formed governing the future use of waters of the Yellowstone and other state streams, and approved by legislation, it automatically supplants the prior rights of individuals, and that if in the future conflict as to rights arises, the compact and its terms are used entirely as the yardstick by which disputes are settled.

Brown explained Montana has been slow to organize and prepare for a compact simply because the state lacks a water code by which all problems and prior rights can be gathered in one unit for presentation to any organizing body or commission.

He said water rights of persons which have been acquired through the last 75 years to both Montana and Wyoming, must be "deeply considered," and that Montana must protect its future with correct handling of its water rights. "If these rights are not protected it is apt to develop into a serious situation for future farm generations."

## Brown Explains Yellowstone River Compact Issue

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