

Egyptian Compares Aswan Dam to Garrison in N.D.

By JONNI FLANAGAN
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An Egyptian representative of the Aswan High Dam Ministry has found much that is similar between his country and North Dakota, he said here Tuesday.

Like North Dakota, Egypt is largely agricultural and looking to water development to improve its economy, said Ahmed M. Talaat.

Talaat has been in North Dakota since last Thursday, and among the places he has seen that impressed him most is Garrison Dam and Reservoir.

He drew comparisons between huge Aswan Dam, now being built across the Nile River, and the North Dakota Missouri River dam.

"They're very similar in several ways," Talaat told a Tribune reporter. "It's been very interesting to me to see this dam in its completed stage because ours is not yet finished."

HE INDICATED that he was surprised at the volume of fill that had gone into Garrison Dam, an earth - fill structure, which he said was greater than that of Aswan Dam, being built largely of concrete and rock.

Aswan will irrigate about 2 million acres of land, about a third more than the present tillable Egyptian acreage.

It will produce, said Talaat, more electric power than will all the federal hydro - electric installations on the Missouri River, bringing rural electrification to much of Egypt.

In addition, power from Aswan will be used in heavy industry.

Talaat, a tall, mustached man who speaks English with relative ease, is the deputy director of the High Dam Ministry in the United Arab Republic and is on a four-months tour of the United States.

HIS VISIT to this country is under sponsorship of the United States State Department.

Talaat said he had included North Dakota in his itinerary at the suggestion of North Dakota Sen. Milton R. Young. Last year, Talaat accompanied Young when Young viewed Aswan Dam.

A highlight of his North Dakota stay was a visit to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Said Talaat with a chuckle: "Our idea about Indians comes from movies. It was a deception because I didn't see



COMPARE DAM NOTES—Ahmed M. Talaat, left, an Aswan (Egypt) High Dam official, compares notes with George P. Craft, area engineer at Garrison Dam.

any Indians shooting at cars!"

Al Joe Agar, chairman of the Standing Rock tribal council, gave him a beadwork tie.

In Egypt, he said, the American Indian is referred to as a "Red Indian", to distinguish between them and those of India, who are referred to simply as Indian.

Talaat said that he had noted what he believed to be an increasing interest in international problems on the part of the American people.

"The people of the United States have always seemed to be too involved in the problems within their country," he explained. "But I have noticed that the people in your country, and in North Dakota, are becoming more interested in knowing more about the Middle East and our problems there."

Talaat indicated interest in the degree of cooperative development that exists here as compared to in Egypt.

"Cooperatives here operate on a much wider scale," he said. "In our country, farmers own the land but form cooperatives for the purpose of buying seed, to gain marketing advantages and to purchase machinery. Here you not only do that but you sell refrigerators, stoves and other home appliances."

The cooperative movement in

Egypt is new, said Talaat, but already has contributed much to improvement of the farmers' economic status. "Through co-ops," he said, "farmers there are able to borrow money from the government at no interest cost."