

STATE BANKING DEPARTMENT  
CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO

LOS ANGELES OFFICE  
830 PACIFIC FINANCE BUILDING

December 7th, 1922.

Colonel Ed Fletcher,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:

Permit me to express my thanks and appreciation for your kindness in showing me over the Hodges Lake Dam, and over the property owned by the Santa Fe.

In this connection, I feel that the good people of San Diego County should be under great obligations to yourself for having thought out this great development plan, and also under great obligations to the Santa Fe Road for having furnished the money to carry into execution this enterprise, of such value to the community.

My impression is that the 10,000 acres of land below the dam can be made to produce intensively, but it will require colonization in small tracts, of people who are willing to devotedly attend to the raising of small crops of great values. Perhaps winter crops would be the most valuable that could be raised, and I am convinced that the land will be very productive if properly farmed.

My judgment is that the Santa Fe Road can well afford to offer unusual inducements to settlers. If it would accept my opinion, it would offer to sell this land in small tracts to selected customers, at a reasonable price, and on twenty years' time. The average party from the east seeking land in California is 42 years of age, has three children and is worth \$2500.00. You have to meet the situation presented by this colonist. Give him a chance! Make a low rate of interest, and if necessary, arrange to loan him a little additional money to improve his land with buildings and barns.

A proposition like this would be so unique and unusual that it would be published in every newspaper in the United States as a news item. I really believe it would attract to your proposition so many customers that you could select those to whom you desired to sell. And above all, the Santa Fe Road can well afford to make terms of this kind. It has the money and it has the land, and what it needs is the very best farmers in the country, and it needs to get them at once.

People at this time are not seeking land. They are seeking town lots in the cities, and in order to turn their attention to farm life, you must make a proposition that is unique.

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Colonel Ed Fletcher, -2.  
December 7th, 1922.

By getting the settlers upon the land, the Santa Fe Road will avail itself of four things:

1st. It will have customers for the very large body of water that it has conserved and impounded.

2nd. It will be relieved of taxes on the land, and will in fact receive interest upon the value thereof.

3rd. It will have tenants that will produce tonnage which will be tributary to its transportation lines.

4th. Good settlers will attract additional settlers, and as the property is sold, that which is sold last will be of increasing value.

I want you to know, Colonel Fletcher, that I am interested in the development of your back country, and that if my services will help you in any way, you are at liberty to call on me at any time, day or night.

With renewed assurances of my personal good wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely,

*Jonathan S. Dodge*  
SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS.

JSD/W.

JONATHAN S. DODGE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS

STATE BANKING DEPARTMENT  
CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO

December 14, 1922.

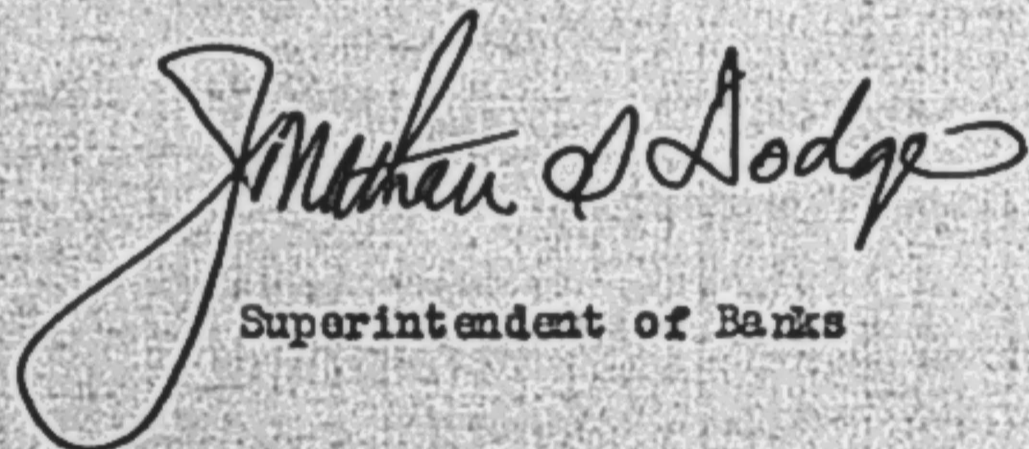
Colonel Ed. Fletcher,  
San Diego, California.

Dear Colonel:

We had a meeting today of the Bond Certification Commission and the matter of a bond issue for the San Diegueto District was discussed. It seems that Mr. McClure feels that the contract with the Hodges Dam people will be too burdensome if the maximum charge is insisted upon at the end of five years. He was willing to recommend a bond issue on the basis of four cents per thousand cubic feet for water with a minimum charge of \$5000 for the first year after complete installation and then ascending in price until a maximum charge of some \$41,000 would be reached in the seventh year. We have set this down for hearing finally on Thursday, December 28 at 2 P. M. and I would suggest that you get ready for business.

With good wishes, I am

Very sincerely,

  
Superintendent of Banks

JSD:MEW

*W. W. ...*

280-1

December 14, 1922.

Mr. Johnathan S. Dodge,  
State Superintendent of Banks,  
San Francisco, California.

My dear Mr. Dodge:

I more than appreciate your letter of December 7th, and it will be forwarded where it will do the most good.

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 6 Folder: 29**

**General Correspondence - Dodge, Jonathan S.**



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UC SAN DIEGO

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