

The San Diego Union
ESTABLISHED 1868

The Evening Tribune

PUBLISHED BY UNION-TRIBUNE PUBLISHING CO.

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

March 28, 1929.

L. C. RIDOUT, AUDITOR
340 UNION BUILDING ANNEX

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

May 2, 1929.

ED FLETCHER COMPANY,
1020 Ninth Street,
City.

Gentlemen: Attention M.E. Fletcher.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 27th enclosing your check for \$18.90 being return premium on cancelled Phoenix Insurance Company policy No.162760.

Thank you for your very prompt attention in this matter.

Yours very truly,

L. C. Ridout

L.C.RIDOUT, Auditor.

LCR:BVB

COL. ED FLETCHER,
1020 Ninth St.,
City.

Dear Colonel Fletcher:

Enclosed herewith please find our check for \$200.00 payable to you, as a donation toward the cost of the highway from Calexico to Midway Well.

Again apologizing for not getting this check to you sooner, I am

Yours very truly,

L. C. Ridout

L. C. RIDOUT, Auditor.

Enc.
LCR:BVB

April 2, 1929.

Mr. L. C. Ridout, Auditor,
San Diego Union,
San Diego, California.

My dear Ridout:

Thanks for the check for \$200.00.

It is being sent off today to Calexico.

Yours sincerely,

BF:KLM

March 17, 1935.

Mr. Lester Bradley
Managing Editor
San Diego Union-Tribune
San Diego, California.

My dear Lester:

The City of San Diego owns 1000 or 1500 acres in the lower end of San Pasqual Valley on both sides of the River, invaluable for flooding purposes if a dam is ever raised and more valuable as a pumping proposition for underground waters. Between that land and the land flodded by Lake Hodges there are two or three pieces of property which keep the land owned by the city from being contiguous. These properties are known as the Prentice property and the White property.

The City of San Diego contracted 3 years ago to buy the Prentice property for \$125,000 with some reservations as to water rights. The city paid \$25,000 cash and \$100,000 was to be paid, I believe, in two years. I am not sure as to the time.

Senator L. A. Wright gave an opinion that the city was legally bound to pay that \$100,000 so, on Senator Wright's advice, F. M. White purchased for \$70,000 the Prentice contract and took a deed to the Prentice property. White also sold to the city for something like \$25,000 another 150 acres riparian to the stream, adjoining the Prentice property on the East. I believe the city paid White something like \$5,000 on a contract. The city refused to make any further payments, the courts determined that they were options and not contracts and abandoned the whole deal.

White had borrowed the money from his brother-in-law Yawkey. White died and Yawkey eventually got a deed to the property.

Mr. Lester Bradley

#2

I have just submitted to the City of San Diego recently, on behalf of Mr. Yawkey, a price of \$50,000 for both the Prentice and the White properties. In other words, the city originally undertook to pay \$125,000 for the Prentice property, approximately \$25,000 for the White property, or \$150,000. The city paid \$29,000 or \$30,000 down, leaving \$130,000 still to pay, then threw up the contract.

Today these properties can be purchased for \$50,000. Mr. George Buck the City Manager, and the Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. Pyle, so I have been informed, are in favor of buying these properties at this time.

There are no improvements on these two properties but they have not alone the value for water rights but for flooding purposes. In case the dam is only raised 10 or 15 feet as it was at Lake Hodges, these lands will be flooded.

The appraised value of these properties is taxable property on only about \$15,000 or \$20,000. They are rented today for only \$200 for cattle purposes. Don't forget that when the city condemned Louis J. Wild's damsite and lands flooded in 1916 at Jamul Ranch, 18 acres that were only assessed at \$2 an acre, the jury gave a verdict of \$18,000 for and that land isn't worth anything for agricultural purposes. A compromise was made and the city paid \$9,000 cash for the 18 acres that was only assessed for \$36. It is only as and when the land is needed for this purpose that you can get these high figures. There have been many precedents established to confirm my statement.

The Prentice property is a tract of 300 or 400 acres, is practically all good plow land excepting about 50 acres in the river bed.

My son, Ed Fletcher, Jr., will bring you this letter and show you the map. I wish you would have a conference with the City Manager in relation thereto.

I am speaking now on behalf of the city and in the interests of the city it would be criminal to let this matter blow up. Will you kindly contact City Manager Buck or Mr. Pyle and get their reaction in relation thereto and greatly oblige me. Please do what you can to expedite this matter.

Mr. Lester Bradley

#3

With these two properties ~~and~~ another small piece, the La Prade property, acquired, the city has a solid block of land for 10 or 12 miles up and down the river from Hodges Dam to the center of San Pasqual valley.

I am trying to get the riparian owners in the San Pasqual Valley above, between the city property and Sutherland Dam, to sell their water rights for \$200,000 instead of \$300,000 which they ask. When this is acquired the city is in full control of the river.

To my utter amazement the State Engineer showed me a report which is soon to be made public showing that, including even the Santa Margarita River, the San Luis Rey, the San Dieguito, the San Diego River, the Otay and a large part of the Tijuans, there is only enough water in the county for domestic supply for 325,000 people. Boy, it's a knock-out. I have asked for a copy of the official report and will have it in the near future.

As you know they have spent \$25,000 in making these investigations during the last year, half paid for by the Supervisors and half by the State.

Very sincerely yours,

EF/RD

April 22, 1955

Mr. Howard Taylor
San Diego Union-Tribune
919 Second Avenue
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Taylor:

As you know, both the U.S. Reclamation Service and the U.S. Army Engineers have investigated and made tentative reports on the feasibility of bringing water from the Feather River and the Klamath eventually to Southern California. Bills have been introduced in the present Legislature which, if they become law, will be the first step in taking Trinity River water into the Sacramento drainage and into Southern California and San Diego. The Trinity River dumps into the Klamath River, going into the ocean through Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Ed Fletcher Company have for many years had large interests in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and many personal friends.

The Eureka Rotary Club have invited me to talk on this state-wide water project at Rotary next Monday noon in Eureka. Enclosed find synopsis of my talk. As you probably know, I was 12 years in the State Senate and for 8 years identified with water legislation while there as well as being identified in the development of the Cuyamaca water system with my associate, Mr. Murray, with the Lake Henshaw project with William G. Henshaw, and was president of the water company controlled by the Santa Fe Railroad who built the Lake Hodges system.

I want to be a factor in bringing about a friendly relationship with the north in our efforts to get the water which they cannot use now going into the ocean. If interested, I may send you a dispatch from Eureka on Monday afternoon if anything new develops. Am trying to be an ambassador of good will. What is your pleasure?

Sincerely yours,

Ed Fletcher

EF:rmc

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Mackay Radio  All America Cables
 Commercial Cables Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE	
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FULL RATE	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DAY RATE
NIGHT LETTER	URGENT
SERIAL	DEFERRED
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UNION TRIBUNE CO
EDITORIAL DEPT
SAN DIEGO CALIF



here

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENT CONVENTION TODAY UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ED FLETCHER OF CALIFORNIA CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF FIVE MEMBERS TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE NEXT NATIONAL CONVENTION THE QUESTION OF FEDERAL AND STATE OWNERSHIP AND REFORESTATION OF MANY MILLIONS OF ACRES IN THE UNITED STATES OF ~~MARGINAL~~ MARGINAL AND CUT-OVER TIMBER LANDS, METHODS OF PROTECTION, CONTROL OF CUTTING ~~AND PRACTICES~~ AND PRACTICES THE COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND LEGISLATION EFFECTING BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TIMBER LANDS IN THE PUBLIC ~~INTEREST~~ INTEREST OF ~~PRESERVING~~ PRESERVING ONE OF OUR MOST VITAL RESOURCES SENATOR FLETCHER WILL RETURN TO SAN DIEGO ABOUT FEBRUARY 1ST

Ed Fletcher

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 24 Folder: 15

General Correspondence - San Diego Union-Tribune



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