

[w/ 1914 papers]
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In the injunction suit just filed against the Volcan Land & Water Company, Wm. G. Henshaw and Ed. Fletcher by the City of Oceanside and certain private individuals asking the Courts to stop the diversion of the San Luis Rey River at Warners Ranch, Col. Fletcher on his return today made the following statement:

"It is simply a waste of money on the part of the plaintiffs in bringing the suit at the present time. These people have been influenced by others for ulterior motives in my opinion to file this suit at this time in an effort to hamper our present negotiations. We have given the City of Oceanside every assurance that before we attempt to divert water in the San Luis Rey River, we will take the matter up and try and satisfy them. The Warners Dam is forty-five miles distance from Oceanside in the mountains; there are several hundred square miles of watershed below the dam. We will only divert, when the dam is built, one-third of the flow of the San Luis Rey River, and from the reports of the best engineers in the country, it is a joke to think that the building of our dam will affect the water level in the sands of the property of the City of Oceanside, forty-five miles away. We have already secured all the rights of diversion by deed from the Canfield estate and their claim is purely a technicality. Mr Peiper, one of the plaintiffs, has joined in this suit simply because he owns a salt marsh at the mouth of the river; my understanding is that his expenses are all paid by certain interested parties to make this fight. Messrs. Jones, Herman and Jones, three of the plaintiffs do not own any property on the River proper, but claim an old ditch right which has been disused for the last eight or ten

years. The only plaintiff left is Caroline-M. Winston who has a valid water right and with whom a compromise will have to be made or a suit brought to condemn her rights.

I have been assured by the City of Oceanside that if we will only develop and deliver to Carlsbad and South Oceanside enough water to irrigate that section of the county, that the City of Oceanside will waive its rights and withdraw all opposition. It certainly looks peculiar on the face of it to have the City of Oceanside protest against our diversion forty-five miles away and yet give consent to the South Coast Land Co. without recompense whatsoever allowing the South Coast to install pumping plants within a quarter of a mile of the pumping plant of the City of Oceanside and pump from the sands of the San Luis Rey River 200 miner's inches of water. The present consumption of the City of Oceanside is approximately 50 miner's inches. We have purchased the riparian rights of the lands up and down the San Luis Rey River for a distance of forty-five miles at an expenditure of nearly a million dollars, and when the proper time comes we have no fear but what a satisfactory adjustment can be made with the City of Oceanside without any further litigation.

May 23, 1914.

Statement Col. Ed. Fletcher

The offer of the Volcan Land & Water Company, if accepted, gives the city absolute control of the flood waters of the San Luis Rey, the Pamo and the San Pasqual Rivers, over 400 square miles of water shed; including the Palomar Mountain, Santa Ysabel and Mesa grande sections of our back country.

A million and a half in bonds assures the financing of the project by Mr Henshaw, and the delivery of at least ten million gallons of water into the University Heights reservoir by another year, providing prompt action is taken.

It also means that the city forever controls in excess of fifty million gallons daily run-off the year around when the system is fully developed, and the cheapest water that ever can be developed in San Diego County.

In ten years the property will be worth four times what the Volcan Land & Water Co. asks for it today. I hope the city takes advantage of this offer for the opportunity will never come again. If the price is not satisfactory, I am heartily in favor of the city condemning immediately not alone the holdings of the Volcan Land & Water Co., but the Cuyamaca system as well, so that the city may control the water situation of San Diego County.

May 23, 1914.

The offer of the Volcan Land & Water Company in a few words as possible is as follows:

The price of all the properties including improvements to date, water rights, rights of way, etc. is \$2,500,000, payable as follows: \$1,500,000 to be voted now by the city as part payment on the contract purchase. The Volcan Land & Water Company will immediately thereafter bond the system for \$2,500,000, agreeing to sell said bonds, and take \$1,000,000 of said bond issue to pay for the balance of the city's obligation to them. The other \$1,500,000 will be spent in the development of the system which will include the building of the Warner's dam, the San Luis Rey conduit and tunnel, the Carrol damsite and the pipe line to the city; the money to be spent according to plans and specifications made by the city and under the city's direction.

The city cannot vote additional bonds in excess of \$1,500,000 at this time, but in this way the city gets the benefit of the expenditure of an additional \$1,500,000 by the Volcan Company, and the delivery of water into the city immediately. At some future time when the city desires, say in five, ten or twenty years, the city can pay off these \$2,500,000 of bonds and take over the system.

To put it another way, the purchase price of the system in its present condition is \$2,500,000. The Volcan Land & Water Co. agrees to spend \$1,500,000 more immediately making the total purchase price \$4,000,000. All this is accomplished by the city of San Diego voting at the present time \$1,500,000 in bonds as the first payment,

It means not alone the delivery of 10,000,000 gallons of water a day into the city, but the absolute control forever of 40,000,000 gallons of water a day more, which can be developed as needed from the Volcan Land & Water Company system by the building of additional reservoirs, etc.

Interview of Colonel Ed Fletcher

-2-

I am sure Mr. Henshaw intends to submit one more offer to the City for the purchase of the Volcan water system, and at an early date. The proposition will be similar to the original offer excepting that Mr. Henshaw will ask for a bond issue of one million dollars instead of for one million and a half dollars, which was the amount asked for in his original proposition to the City. His offer will include an agreement whereby he builds the Warners Dam, the Carroll Dam and a pipe line to the City to deliver at least 10 million gallons of water daily.

The attorneys have been working for weeks past preparing the papers. One feature of the offer to the City will be the reservation by Mr. Henshaw of the right to lease the power rights to the best advantage possible. The revenue to go to the sinking fund of the Volcan Water Company to pay interest on its bonds until such time as the City of San Diego takes over the Volcan system, and thereafter any and all revenue will go ~~to~~ to the City.

The San Diego Consolidated Gas & Electric Company are negotiating with the Volcan Water Company for the right to develop whatever power there is, although no contract has been actually signed up.

If Mr. Henshaw will not or can not raise the necessary money to finance the power plant in addition to the million and a half or two millions necessary to build the Carroll and Pamo Dams, it is possible that arrangements can be made to get the

Gas Company to take a lease on power rights with an agreement that will fully protect San Diego's interest. It will be years before the City will ever be able to finance the power proposition itself even if it wanted to and it would be foolish for all parties in interest to let any revenue from power go to waste for any length of time. There is approximately a 1500 ft. power drop between Warners and Pamo Dams.

I would personally be opposed to any lease being made between the Volcan Water Company and the Gas Company unless said lease is first approved by the City Council of San Diego and the State Railroad Commission, and providing further that the State Railroad Commission be the arbitrator as to the rate to be paid for the power. In this way the city's interest will surely be protected.

If any arrangements are made with the Gas Company, they will be made at an early date in advance of any date set for the City election so the citizens of San Diego will be in a position to approve or disapprove of any contract made between the Volcan Company and the Gas Company.

Interview Col. Ed Fletcher

Yes, the Gas Company is negotiating with the Volcan Company for the right to develop whatever power there is to be had when the Volcan System is developed although no contract has been actually signed. If a million dollars is voted by the City for an option on the Volcan system, the City will not for many years, probably 10 or 20 years, be financially able to develop the power owing to its finances. In the meantime there will be no revenue from the power development unless Mr. Henshaw puts many hundred thousand dollars into a power plant and line in addition to a million and a half or two million necessary for the construction of the Warner and Carroll Dams and pipe lines.

If Mr. Henshaw does not see fit to finance the power plant, and the Gas Company will take a lease of same that fully protects the City's interests, I am personally in favor of an arrangement of this kind providing any lease made between the Volcan Company and the Gas Company is first approved by the City Council of San Diego and the State Railroad Commission; and providing further that the State Railroad Commission shall decide the rate to be paid for the power. A lease of this kind gives the Volcan Company additional revenue to help pay the interest on the bonds until the City of San Diego takes over the system, and thereafter the City gets the benefit of the revenue.

Interview with Colonel Ed Fletcher.

Oceanside attempting to stop the proper development of the San Luis Rey flood waters, by the Volcan Company, and their claim of possible damage is a joke.

There are nearly 400 square miles of water shed above Oceanside and below the Warners Dam. Think of it! This is more water shed than the combined area included in the Spreckels system, including Lower Otay. It is also more water shed than the entire Volcan System, which will produce 25,000,000 gallons daily net safe yield, according to figures of Mr. Harroun. The water shed of Oceanside below Warner's Dam also includes the best water shed in the county, Palomar Mountain and Pauma Creek.

Oceanside pumps its water for the city from a five-acre tract of land in the San Luis Rey River. We have a report from the best underground water expert in the state of California that there ~~is~~ are 110,000,000,000 gallons of water available in the sands of the San Luis Rey River above the pumping plant of the City of Oceanside. All the dams in San Diego County cannot hold this amount, with all reservoirs full. How on earth they expect to prove that the building of Warner's Dam forty-five miles away will affect their underground water level is more than I know. The City of Oceanside does not even ask us to furnish them with a drop of water, and they have agreed to call off the suit if we will bring water and irrigate lands not within the city limits of Oceanside but within a radius of five or ten miles from Oceanside, so that ~~we~~ ^{they} will get the benefit of the development of that country.

THE VOLCAN SYSTEM FROM THE OUTSIDE

Since that offer was made, they have allowed the South Coast Land Company to come within one-half mile of their pumping plants and gave their consent to the South Coast Land Company pumping 200 miner's inches of water from the sands of the San Luis Rey River. They have given their consent to the South Coast Land Company pumping to pump five times as much water as they are pumping from the gravels within less than one-half mile of the present Oceanside pumping plant.

Oceanside's claim is a hold up game pure and simple, and I certainly admire their nerve if they think they can stop the development of all San Diego County just to satisfy their own selfish interests.

I am sorry that the Taxpayers' League are considering their own personal interests, and not looking at this water development from a broad standpoint and the best interests of the city. The new blood in this city, 50,000 people, who have come in here the last three years realize the fact that without more water and plenty of it the city cannot grow.

For the benefit of the Taxpayers' League, will say that one of the petitions which has been circulated asking for an election was presented to 78 people and 76 of them signed it. In the last analysis the people will settle this question and not six or eight members of the Taxpayers' League.

Apropos of the many articles pro and con concerning the acquisition of the City of San Diego of the Volcan Water System, a few words by a rancher who has lived in the country forming part of the watershed of this great system for twenty-seven years, may be of interest to those who have lived here a shorter period. Heretofore all the articles have emanated from the city, but in this we will go to the source. I am quite familiar with the watershed of the Volcan Water System having traversed many times the trails of the surrounding ranges whose waters drain into that great counter-sunk basin known as Valley de San Jose or Warner's Ranch. This great basin gathers all the Waters from the eastern end of Palomar Mountains, the slopes to the south of Oak Grove, and that great broken and rugged region known as Chihuahua, Lost Valley, San Ignacio as well as parts of the Volcan and Mesa Grande Mountains. The rest of the Volcan, Santa Ysabel and Mesa Grande Mountains flow into the Sutherland, Pamo and Carroll reservoir sites.

The principal feeders for the Warner Sutherland and Pamo ^{reservoirs} are the San Luis Rey River and Santa Ysabel Creek. In this country where rivers and creeks run bottom up during most of the year. I have seen the San Luis Rey cease flowing at the damsite. Only once during twenty-seven years have I seen the Santa Ysabel Creek go dry at the crossing and even then there was a subsurface flow.

The average annual precipitation at my place, Loma Ceroza in Mesa Grande where there has been a Government gauge for several years, is thirty inches and has never gone below twenty-six inches. Palomar averages about forty-five inches and Volcan probably the same.

In 1884 ninety inches of rain fell in Mesa Grande and as late as 1906 we had forty-seven inches while Palomar had sixty-five inches. In the latter part of March of that year twelve inches of rain fell in three days practically submerging the whole country. The Santa Ysabel Creek was impassable for several days being one hundred feet wide and five feet deep. The main feeders to this creek, which rise in Mesa Grande, were also impassable. Being interested to witness the San Luis Rey river in flood times I rode horseback to the present damsite; eight miles. I never saw so much water; it seemed to ooze and flow from every pore of the earth as far as eye could see. Warner's Ranch was a perfect net work of interlacing strands of silver glistening streams while the whole area between the present Boulevard and Monkey Hill, covering about two square miles from the foot of the Mesa Grande hills, was practically under water. This portion of the ranch, tho not generally known, is ~~springy~~ and full of water.

Springy

At this time George Haines, son of Judge Haines, was in charge of the camp at the river. Thru data gathered by him during the storm I found that the river was discharging four billion gallons every twenty-four hours; it was one hundred sixty feet wide, eight feet deep, carried waves on its crest six feet high and was running like a mill-race. Desiring a photographer at close range at the exact spot of the samsite I waded into the current waist deep to secure the photo which is herewith presented. Had a dam one hundred feet high been installed at the time the reservoir would have more than filled that year. Billions of gallons flowed into the ocean that year and every year since. Enough water went to waste in 1906 to have irrigated the whole county for years. I merely cite this instance to illustrate the fact that the Warner and Santa Ysabel water sheds are able to fill all requirements of a city many times the size of San Diego. This was a year of excessive rain, but we are subject to these every few years. There would never be a shortage of water if the means of storage were at hand.

In my opinion the Volcan Water System, consisting of the reservoirs before mentioned, contain the greatest as well as the only supply of available, undeveloped water to be had in this County. All other sources are in use. Any additional supply must come from here. This system drains the highest peaks ~~mountains~~ ~~ranges~~ and ranges in the county; many of the mountains being buried under a mantle of snow during part of the year. Then there are summer rains or sonora storms in the higher mountains which oftentimes come in deluges and cloudbursts. I was told that in 1903 or 1904 that over thirty inches of summer rains fell in Chihuahua. This is very exceptional, but from three to five inches fall nearly every year.

such

When/authorities as Mulholland and Lippincott, the engineers who built the Los Angeles aqueduct; Harry Hawgood, consulting hydraulic engineer of the first water; William S. Post, Hydraulic expert; T. S. Van Dyke, the real father of irrigation in this county, and many other hydraulic and Government experts, fully indorse this proposition. The last word has been said. Their peers in their particular line are not to be found. These men have actually been over the ground and thoroughly examined every detail of the system.

In addition to the ample supply of this system, the fact that this water can be utilized to run a hydro-electrical plant must not be lost sight of. This means cheap electricity for the city and county, and the income derived from this source will probably pay for its keep and management of the system.

From the forebay of the ditch line from Warner's there is a drop of 1500 feet to the proposed electric plant; what wonderful potential power is here to furnish light and run the dynamos of city and county. The talk of drawing water from the muddy Colorado or San Jacinto mountain and conducting it to the city is not to be entertained seriously for one instant. That would cost many times the whole completed Volcan System, even were it feasible. The Volcan System controls the only ample and permanent supply of available water not now in use in this county. In a few years this will be priceless; just now it can be acquired at a reasonable figure and the city should avail itself of its opportunity.

(Signed) Edward F. Davis,
Mesa Grande.

WHEREAS, it is a necessity that the City of San Diego immediately acquire more water to supply its growing population, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the City to control and conserve all the waters in San Diego County, tributary thereto, and

WHEREAS, the Volcan Water Company has submitted an offer for the sale of its properties to the City of San Diego,

THEREFORE, we the assembled this ___ day of _____, 1914, feel that all the water of San Diego County should be acquired by the City of San Diego at the earliest possible date. That the best price and terms to purchase the Volcan system should be secured by the City Council, and we unqualifiedly endorse and recommend to the said City Council the submission, at once, of the purchase of the Volcan system to the city of San Diego. And we also desire to go on record as advocating the purchase of all other sources of supply as soon as the finances of the City of San Diego will permit.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

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Box: 49 Folder: 2

**Business Records - Water Companies - Volcan
Land and Water Company - San Dieguito System
- Offer of Sale to City - Interviews and Articles**



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