

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (IRRIGATION)

522 BUMILLER BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

October 14, 1910.

Mr. Ed Fletcher,

President Ed Fletcher Company,

San Diego, California.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:-

I have delayed answering your letter of August 30th until the construction of the lines as set forth by us was assured. The additional expense caused by the installation of the measuring boxes, as required by your company, increased the estimated cost of our pipe lines to such an extent as to exceed the available fund. For this reason it was necessary either to procure more money or reduce the number of lines, and the latter course would change the rotation periods. We have now completed the lines, and have turned them over to Supt. F. A. Virtue, in charge of the reservation. The old steel lines, which supplied the Indians with a continuous flow for both irrigation and domestic purposes, will be at once furnished with faucets from which the Indians can procure a domestic supply, so that all the water used for irrigation will pass through the measuring boxes.

Enclosed you will find a copy, in duplicate, of the rotation schedule, showing the number of the line (which will be

E.F.--2

painted on the measuring box), the beginning and end of the rotation period, the amount of water in Cal. inches to be delivered, the length of flow in hours, and the acreage under each line. The constant (which is obtained by multiplying the flow in inches by the time of flow in hours-divided by the acreage) indicates that every acre in the system receives the same amount of water during the period of 14 days.

This system should be in force during the irrigation season, which is assumed to be 120 days, or 4 months. Of course alfalfa will require irrigation for a longer period, or until the rains come, and occasionally an Indian may have a few vegetables the growing season of which may overlap this period and which will probably require a little water. At present there are about 2 acres of alfalfa under each of lines Nos. 8 and 9. Each line will require a 20 inch flow for a period of 10 hours, once in 14 days, until the rains set in. Under line No. 14 there are a few vegetables that will probably require one additional irrigation. This will require a ten inch flow for about 10 hours.

You will observe that the amount of water required beyond the regular irrigation season is quite small. While I can give you no assurance as to the acreage that will be planted to alfalfa by the Indians, as no one has the authority to dictate what they shall or shall not raise, it has been my observation that the Indian confines himself to the growing of corn, beans and vegetables for his own use, and

E.F.--3

I can see no reason to believe that the Indians on this reservation will prove to be different from those on other reservations in Southern California.

The Indians have not the moral or legal right to waste this water, and if this should occur, the matter should at once be taken up with the Superintendent of the Reservation, who will stop the waste.

Again thanking you for your courtesy, and trusting that you will have as little trouble with the Indians in the future as you have had in the past, I am

Very respectfully,

L. R. Olberg.

Superintendent of Irrigation.

encls.

GRO/HPC.

JAMES A. MURRAY AND ED FLETCHER
SUCCESSORS TO
THE SAN DIEGO FLUME COMPANY
OFFICE, 1548 D ST., COR. SEVENTH

ED FLETCHER, MANAGER

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

Rotation Schedule

Capitan Grande Indian Reserve.

Period - 14 days.

Line	From	To	Flow	Hours	Acft.	C.
	D	D	C.M.L.			
4	1 6 A. M.	3 6 A. M.	30	48	15	96
13	" "	" "	10	"	5	"
5	3 6 A. M.	4 6 P. M.	40	36	15	"
7	4 6 P. M.	6 6 A. M.	40	36	15	"
8	6 6 A. M.	7 6 P. M.	40	36	15	"
9	7 6 P. M.	9 6 A. M.	40	36	15	"
12	9 6 A. M.	10 6 A. M.	40	24	10	"
17	10 6 A. M.	11 6 A. M.	40	24	10	"
3	11 6 A. M.	12 2. P.	30	32	10	"
10	" "	" "	10	"	3½	"
6	12 2. P.	13 10 P. M.	30	32	10	"
14	" "	" "	10	"	3½	"
15	13 10 P. M.	15 6 A. M.	40	32	13½	"
			40	336	140	96

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

Rotation Schedule

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Period - 14 days.

line	FROM	TO	Flow	Hours	Acf.	C.
	D	D	C.M.L.			
4	1 6 A. M.	3 6 A. M.	30	48	15	96
13	" "	" "	10	"	5	"
5	3 6 A. M.	4 6 P. M.	40	36	15	"
7	4 6 P. M.	6 6 A. M.	40	36	15	"
8	6 6 A. M.	7 6 P. M.	40	36	15	"
9	7 6 P. M.	9 6 A. M.	40	36	15	"
12	8 6 A. M.	10 6 A. M.	40	24	10	"
17	10 6 A. M.	11 6 A. M.	40	24	10	"
3	11 6 A. M.	12 2. P. M.	30	32	10	"
10	" "	" "	10	"	3½	"
6	12 2. P. M.	13 10 P. M.	30	32	10	"
14	" "	" "	10	"	3½	"
15	13 10 P. M.	15 6 A. M.	40	32	13½	"
			40	336	140	96

April, twenty-third,
 Nineteen thirteen.

Mr. C. R. Olberg,

U. S. Indian Irrigation Service,

Federal Building,

Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

As requested some time ago, I am forwarding prints of the Conejos Reservoir and Canal Application to Interior Department.

We have asked for prompt action on this matter in a letter to the Secretary, sending copy of State Railroad Commission's order; which orders us to rebuild the flume.

Very sincerely yours,

WSP-WK

84

File C W Co

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Acknowledging receipt of prints for Conejos res. & etc.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

IRRIGATION

528 FEDERAL BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CAL., April 30, 1913.

C. W. CO.

Mr. William S. Post, 924 8th St., San Diego, Cal.

Dear Mr. Post:-

I am in receipt of your letter transmitting prints of the Conejos reservoir and Canal Application to the Interior Department. It is not clear to me whether these prints were intended for transmittal to the Office, or to be retained in the files of this office for my information. I have heard nothing further from the Department respecting the application matter, and trust it will be speedily acted upon.

Thanking you for the prints, I am,

Very truly yours,

L. R. Olberg, Superintendent of Irrigation.

CRO/AR

84

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 924 8th St.

May 1, 1913.

Mr. C.R. Olberg, U.S. Indian Service, Los Angeles, Cal.

My dear Olberg:

The prints recently sent you of application for Cone Reservoir and Canal, were intended for your office. My understanding was that you had been obliged to send the only copy you had with y report to Washington, and that you wanted a copy for your informa!

We have asked the Secretary to speed up the attent to this matter, and hope for prompt action. I should be glad of word from you, in case you hear further regarding the applicatio Very sincerely yours,

05

5-1146

Rel. ap-
pointment at UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
L.A. office.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

IRRIGATION

528 FEDERAL BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 28, 1913.

C. W. CO.

FILE

Mr. W. S. Post,
#924 8th St.,
San Diego, Cal.

Dear Mr. Post:-

I am in receipt of your letter of June 26th, arranging an appointment for the morning of July 3rd. This time will be convenient for me, and I will be glad to see you and Mr. Games.

Very respectfully,

L. R. Olney

Superintendent of Irrigation.

CRO/AR

*Tel. Games
a) Permit
b) Olney*

FILE *Cuy W. Co
Congress Appl.* 03

5-1146

Rel. meeting
at Los Angeles
office.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

IRRIGATION

528 FEDERAL BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 24, 1913.

C. W. CO.

Mr. William S. Post,
#924 8th St.,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Post:-

I have just returned from Arizona, and found your letter of June 9th awaiting my reply.

I will probably be in Los Angeles continuously from now on until the middle of July, and would be glad to meet you and Mr. Games at any time to suit your convenience.

Very respectfully,

L. R. Olney

Superintendent of Irrigation.

CRO/AR

FILE

O. W. CO.

June 26, 1913.

Mr. C. R. Olberg,

Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

I have just talked with Mr. Games on the 'phone.

He says he can start the afternoon of July 2nd, (next Wednesday), take the Owl from San Diego Wednesday night and he and Mr. Post would like an appointment with you at 9 A.M. July 3rd (Thursday) if it is convenient.

Please inform me if this is satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

WK

04

C. W. CO.

FILE

06

July 1, 1913.

Mr. C. R. Olberg,

Indien Service,

Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Mr Games now thinks it is out of the question to come to Los Angeles at all, because he says it will take three days of his time. The final result is that he will complete his report by July 10th on the Conejos Application and forward it by mail to you.

I am very much disappointed at this outcome and you will understand that he is ready to confer on the 7th if you could come to Santa Ysabel. The Cuyamaca Water Co. will gladly pay the expense of your coming down on the night train, Sunday the 6th, and we could go in a car to Santa Ysabel, you could then return at 3:00 o'clock P.M. July 7th to Los Angeles. I hope that you will consider this and if you decide it can be done, send me a wire and I will make the arrangements. Bring Mrs Olberg as it is a fine ride.

My urgency on this matter is because Mr. Murray of Murray & Fletcher, is now here on one of his infrequent visits from Montana and they are considering the budget for the Cuyamaca Water Co. now for the next year. We are assured by the Secretary of the Interior Department, that this matter will

(Over)

C. W. CO.

WSP to CRO #2

be settled the instant the Indian Service reports.

Very sincerely yours,

WSP-WK

FILE

09

Rel.Supt. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Games' report UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
rel.reservoir
site & right of IRRIGATION
way on Los Canejos FEDERAL BUILDING
portion of Capitan LOS ANGELES, CAL. , August 7, 1913.
Grande Res.

C. W. CO.

Mr. W. S. Post,
#924 Eighth St.,
San Diego, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of Superintendent Games' report on the application for rights of way and reservoir site on the Los Canejos portion of the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, and am transmitting the same, with appropriate comments, to our Washington Office. Mr. Games also transmitted to this office copies of two maps of the rights of way and reservoir site which you desire. It is necessary for me to transmit these copies to the Department, and I wish that you would kindly let me have two additional ^{sets} copies; one for our files and one for transmission to the Department, as they require all maps, and other documents of this nature, in duplicate.

Thanking you for the maps and trusting that you will get the rights of way without further delay, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

L. R. Olney,
Superintendent of Irrigation.

CRO/AR

AUGUST 12, 1913.

Mr. C. R. Olberg,

528 Federal Building,

Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Mr. Olberg,

Pursuant to your request of the 7th inst. I am today mailing you two sets of maps of Conejos Canal and Reservoir.

Very sincerely yours,

LAO-WK

WATER RIGHTS VOLCAN COMPANY

Memorandum of Conversation with C. R. Olberg, February 24, 1915.

The Indian Service claims 6 second feet or 300 Miners Inches for the Rincon Reservation if it is in the River. They claim that this is the capacity of the Rincon Ditch and their ditch right is superior as a ditch to the Escondido diversion and in any case superior because of riparian ownership.

They also recognize that after May the summer flow decreases to 75 Miners Inches in ordinary years and may even be perfectly dry in very dry years. For this reason they plan pumping plants to supply themselves with pumped water but have been disappointed in the extent of the character of the gravels. To operate these pumping plants they have entered into the arrangement with Escondido to buy power from the Escondido plant.

The claim of the Indian Service at Pala is also 6 second feet or 300 Miners Inches.

To return to the Rincon Indian right, Mr Olberg's position is that the construction of Warner Dam must recognize the summer flow and the problem is to determine what the present regime of the river is in the summer time and establish a relation for low water flow under present conditions at the Escondido intake with the summer flow at Warners Dam. It is agreed that Mr Olberg will place an automatic register at the Escondido intake and spend as much as his Department will allow in placing a concrete sill across the River so as to make it an accurate station. I suggest for the Volcan Company that our hydrographer at Warners Dam be instructed to

visit the station weekly and take care of the records as our contribution. By the time this summer is over it will be known what the summer flow at the Escondido intake is and its relation to the summer flow at Warners. This then will be the basis of the amount which the Indian Service will require to be turned out during the summer past Warner Dam.

I think it is clear that this position of the Indian Service that nothing shall be done at Warner Dam which will interfere with the summer flow measured at the Escondido intake is correct and enforceable and that the Volcan Company should recognize it. I also think that it will not involve much burden on the Company or amount to much in quantity of water especially if as Mr Henshaw suggested some time ago that all the waters be conveyed in our conduit for 5 miles and then a steep pipe line carried to the Escondido intake where our delivery of water will be without loss. The Indian Service have employed an engineer named Bell of Los Angeles to make a complete study of the relation of the construction of Warner Dam to the water supply of the Rincon Reservation as well as at Pala. At Pala, however, the opinion is that Warner Dam will not affect the summer flow. Mr Olberg also mentions that the conditions should be such that the gravels on the Rincon Reservation should be restored each year. On this point I have no doubt but what the local watershed will secure this, and the construction of Warners Dam will have no affect on it.

W.S. Indian Service

Oct. 21, 1914.

Mr. O. W. Bauer,
c/o C. R. Oldberg,
Supt. of Irrigation,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

Mr. L. L. Boone of this city is trying to make trouble for the Cuyamaca Water Company, and I am informed has even gone so far and been so vicious as to attempt to stir up trouble for us with the Department at Washington. Any claims that he may make against us are a joke and done simply to harass us.

The records are the best evidence, and show that we have always done what we have agreed to with the Indians, excepting during a shortage of water for about three weeks this summer, caused by the leaky condition of our flume, which compelled us to line it with rubberoid roofing, with the result that we are saving 90% of our former losses by leakage. This work was done by order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California. The length of our flume is 36 miles, and you can realize what a job it is to put a flume in good condition for that distance in three weeks' time. We had five or six crews on, and as it meant such a saving to the company and to the consumers there was no one objected to it.

All this trouble with Judge Boone originates from the time that Mr. Murray and the writer took over the system June 1, 1910. We have had endless litigation with the previous owners ever since, and Judge Boone is attorney for certain irresponsible people who have made fake water filings and are trying to sell them to the City of San Diego.

I refer to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Diego as to the irresponsibility of Judge Boone. In fact, his actions the last three years are ludicrous. Simply by way of illustration, we wanted two acres of right of way for a pipe line; Judge Boone thru his clients demanded \$10,000 damage and costs - the jury gave them \$328.50, yet it cost us over \$1500 to secure the property by condemnation proceedings, and even now Judge Boone has appealed the case to the Supreme Court. It is not a matter of expense with them - it is simply a desire to do all they can to annoy this company.

Regarding the pumping of water out of the lands of the Indians, will say that we secured the consent of the Government before we installed this pumping plant, and the water is taken out at the lower end of the reservation by means of pumping plants. The location is such that it has never had any effect whatever on the supply to the Indians, for they never have used this water and could not get it except by putting in pumping plants.

As far as all the rest of Mr. Boone's charges are concerned, they are just as ridiculous, as a personal investigation will show.

There is one reference which reflects on your Indian Superintendent, Mr. McCormick. If there is any way to prosecute Mr. Boone for his insinuations, I should be pleased to do so. I never have met Mr. McCormick but two or three times in my life, but I have found him to be a gentleman, and a man who all the time has carefully looked after the interests of the Indians in his charge.

As to my responsibility and integrity, I refer you to Mayor Charles F. O'Neall of this city, or any bank, or Bradstreet's

Agency; also to Governor Hiram W. Johnson, Mr. John M. Eshleman, President of the Railroad Commission of the State of California, also to Representative Kettner of this district, the same man to whom L. L. Boone refers.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Representative Kettner.

Yours very truly,

F-S

re Indian Service
claims to water on
Rincon and Pala
Reservations, Calif.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

IRRIGATION

528 FEDERAL BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

April 16, 1915.

Mr. W. S. Post,

Chief Engineer, Cuyamaca Water Co.,

San Diego, California.

Dear Sir:-

The United States Indian Service claims, on behalf of the Indians of the Rincon Indian Reservation, San Diego County, California, the first three hundred (300) Calif. miner's inches-- six second feet-- of the flow of the San Luis Rey River, at the head of the Escondido Ditch. Its claim is based on riparian rights and early priority rights due to the diversion of approximately that amount at the mouth of the San Luis Rey Canyon, on the Rincon Indian Reservation, and its beneficial use on the lands of the reservation. It also claims sufficient of the underground flow, or percolating water underlying the Rincon Reservation, which, when made available by pumping, with a reasonable lift, and added to that flowing in the river, will make a total of 300 Cal. miner's inches when that amount is not flowing in the river.

This water will be used on the 800 acres of irrigable lands of the Rincon Reservation.

W.S.P.--2

The United States Indian Service claims, on behalf of the Indians of the Pala Indian Reservation, San Diego County, California, the first three hundred (300) Cal. miner's inches-- six second feet-- of the flow of the San Luis Rey River, at the head of the Indian Ditch on the above reservation. Its claim is based not only on its riparian rights inherent to the Indian land, but also on the early priority right due to the diversion of that amount through the Indian Canal, and its beneficial use on the Indian lands of the Pala Reservation. It also claims sufficient of the underground flow, or percolating water underlying the Pala Reservation, which, when made available by pumping, with a reasonable lift, when added to the flow in the river, will make a total of 300 Cal. miner's inches when that amount is not flowing in the river.

This water is used on 600 acres of the Pala Reservation.

I regret that I was unable to supply you with this information at an earlier date, but was prevented from so doing by my absence in Arizona.

very truly yours,

L. R. Olney

Superintendent of Irrigation.

CRO/HPC.

January 15, 1916.

Jan. 13, 1916.

Mr. C. R. Olberg,
U. S. Indian Service,
Federal Bldg.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Mr. Olberg:

Under separate cover I am sending map of the Valley lands along the San Diego River. This does not necessarily represent riparian lands for the reason that there are many hundreds of acres of Mesa lands that are also riparian.

My interpretation of riparian lands is that it is any land under one ownership extending from the Mesa to the gravels fed by underground waters from the stream, the only exception being that the ownership has always remained the same, since the United States patent, without having sold the Mesa land to one party and the water bearing gravels retained in such ownership. If the Mesa lands have been sold independent of the water bearing lands then they become non-riparian, even if one individual might thereafter purchase both the Mesa lands and the river bearing gravels.

This is a private record of the Cuyamaca Water Co. and I wish you would consider the information confidential, as far as this matter is concerned.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY

CONFIDENTIAL
CUYAMACA WATER CO.
FILE No. 84
DO NOT REMOVE
ANY LETTER
FROM THIS FILE.

By _____
Manager

Mr. C. R. Oldberg,
Supt. of Irrigation,
Indian Service, Federal Bldg.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Mr. Oldberg:

Enclosed find clipping showing that City Attorney Cosgrove says his fight is now with the Indian Service.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

Manager.

F-S

CUYAMACA WATER CO.
FILE No. 84
DO NOT REMOVE
ANY LETTER
FROM THIS FILE.

January 24, 1916.

Mr. C. R. Oldberg,
Supt. Irrigation Indian Service,
Federal Building,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Mr. Oldberg:

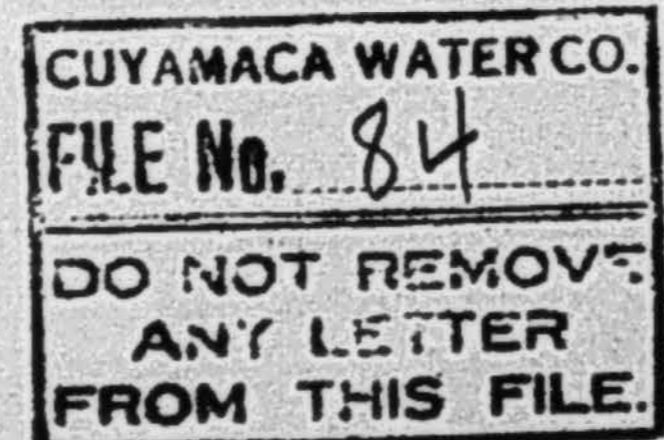
We have just received a letter from our attorneys in Washington, Britton & Gray, that a bill has already been introduced or will be introduced by the City of San Diego, granting to the City of San Diego the right to condemn property on the El Capitan Reservation, included in the Cuyamaca Water Company's permits, and that this bill has already been referred to the Indian Office for report.

Will you kindly take the matter up with the Indian Service, and, if possible, secure copies of the bill, not alone for your own records, but if you can consistently do so for this office, as well.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

Manager.



Feb. 7, 1916.

Mr. C. R. Oldberg,
Supt. of Irrigation,
U. S. Indian Service,
Federal Bldg., Los Angeles.

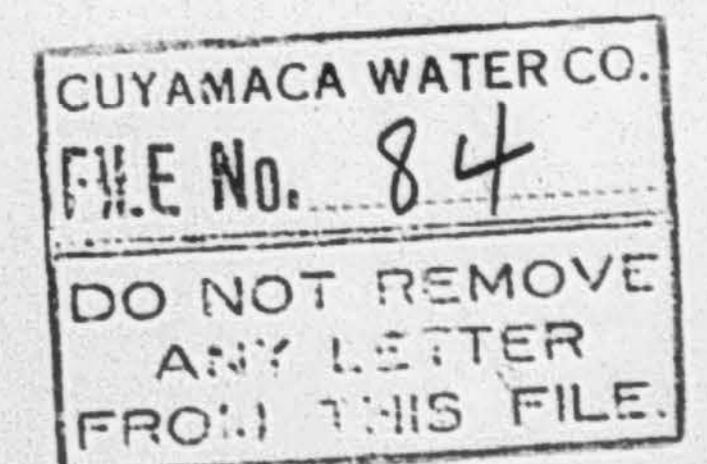
Friend Olberg:

Enclosed find clipping
from Sunday morning's San Diego Union
of February 6, that will be of interest.

Yours very truly,

Manager.

F-8



Feb. 23, 1916.

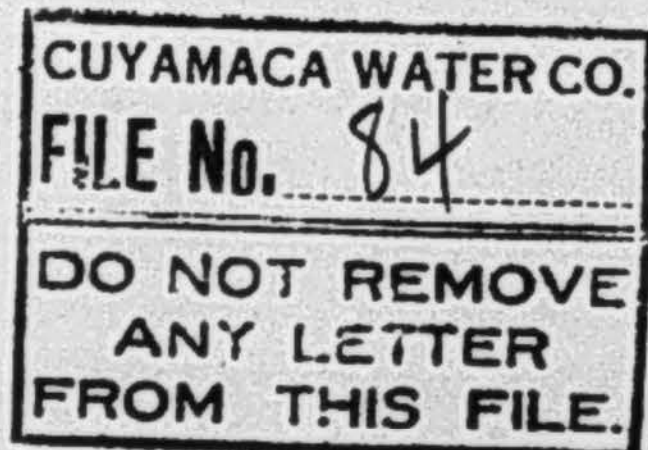
Mr. C. R. Olberg,
Supt. of Irrigation, Indian Service,
Federal Bldg.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Friend Olberg:

Enclosed find copy of bill introduced
in Congress by Congressman Kettner. Give me letters to
any of your friends in Washington, if you will, and
oblige,

Yours very truly,

F-S



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ENC. letters
of introduction, etc.
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
IRRIGATION

528 FEDERAL BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CAL. March 2, 1916.

Mr. Ed Fletcher,

Mgr. Cuyamaca Water Co.,

Fletcher Bldg.,

San Diego, Cal.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

I found your letter, together with a copy of the proposed
bill for the acquisition by the City of San Diego of the Cap-
itan Grande Indian Reservation for a reservoir site, on my
desk on my return from Arizona.

I enclose herewith letters of introduction to the Hon.
Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Mr. W. M.
Reed, Chief Engineer of the Indian Service, both at Washington,
D. C.

I called up Mr. Code, former Chief Engineer of this Ser-
vice, and asked him to recommend to me some attorney who would
be competent to handle your matter in Washington, if you de-
sired to employ him. Mr. Code recommended very strongly
Judge Frank R. Pierce, of this city, formerly First Assistant
Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Code also mentioned Mr. Finney,
now connected with the legal end of the Interior Department,

who would be in a position to recommend to you a proper and competent attorney should Judge Pierce be unable to take the case up.

Mr. Code stated that he would write you personally, giving you a letter of introduction to Mr. Finney in Washington, D. C., and also visit Judge Pierce with you or give you a letter to him if you desire.

I have written Mr. Reed, sending him your copy of the bill, and I take this opportunity to wish you every success and a pleasant journey to Washington.

If there is any other way in which I can assist you, please let me know.

Very respectfully yours,

L. R. Olberg
Superintendent of Irrigation.

CRO/AR

Enc

May Sixth
1 9 3 0

Mr. C. R. Olberg
c/o Zakvodhoz
Tiflis, Trans.
U.S.S.R.

My dear Mr. Olberg:

I was very glad to get your letter of the 10th. It is most interesting and the San Diego Union is going to print it in full. Give me some idea of how long you are going to stay over there.

The stock market crash has made us all scratch gravel to make a living. My personal taxes are \$82,000.00. Things are picking up some, however, in the sale of real estate.

The family are all well. We have had a wonderful winter and I have raised about \$75,000.00 of forty pound boxes of potatoes, they made a big hit.

Enclosed find potato article that will be of interest, also bulb article. These bulbs are raised in the center of my subdivision. Also I am enclosing an article from the San Diego Magazine on the National Highway fight. This will give you something to read if you have any spare moments.

San Diego won out in its paramount right suit to the water of San Diego River and we are appealing to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Los Angeles is in a bad way. They have an injunction against them in the Orange River Valley District for \$38,000,000.00.

The Coolidge Dam was dedicated. It was a case of Hamlet with Hamlet left out as you should have been there.

The last three days we have had four to six inches of rain all over California. It has been perfectly amazing. Last Saturday afternoon we went to Wrightwood in the San Bernardino Mountains. When we woke Sunday morning it was twenty-six degrees and snow all over the ground, while for breakfast we had not only oranges but castaoupe raised in Imperial Valley, splendid ripe fruit

#2

From time to time, old top, write me a letter of interest regarding that country. Let me know what I can send you that will be of interest. Your last letter was a cracker jack.

I am enclosing a picture of the seven Fletcher boys just as an inspiration. I may have sent you one before, but this will show what the San Diego climate can produce.

Kindest personal regards to you and yours.

Sincerely yours,

EF:K

Tiflis, Transcaucasia, U.S.S.R.
April 10, 1930

Col. Ed. Fletcher,
1020 Ninth Street,
San Diego, California
U.S.A.

My dear Colonel:

Both Mrs. Olberg and I were delighted to receive your very welcome letter and to learn that there was a chance that you might visit Transcaucasia. From what little news we hear of America, it seems that you might as well take a rest, and visit Europe and Asia, while waiting for things to improve. From all accounts the U.S.A. must have got an awful wallop in the stock market crash.

This country, as I believe I told you in a previous letter is almost exactly like our West. The climate at Tiflis is somewhat cooler than Los Angeles more like Portland, Oregon. The Caucasian mountains or the Caucasus as they are called, is a magnificent range that lies between this country and Russia proper. The mountains are inhabited by tribes of Georgians, who are practically as wild as our Papago Indians, except that most of them live in stone houses with tile roofs, while the Papagos live in mud houses. It gave me quite a shock at first to see wild white folk, with the women sitting around for all the world like squaws. Most of them are dark about like Italians, and quite handsome, particularly the men, while most of the children are beautiful. I can't say so much for the women, perhaps they kept the pretty ones under cover. A certain tribe called "Hell-zurians", at least that is the way it sounds, are blonds, lighter than I am with red checks and golden hair. It is claimed that they are descended from a band of English Crusaders who became lost in the Caucasus. The swords that they carry are straight and have a cross hilt, differing from the usual Georgian blade which they all carry, and they wear a red Crusaders cross on their jacket or sleeve. They still sport chain mail and a kind of armour for the fore arm. I succeeded in securing an outfit, including a sword and buckler, but the Russians have so many restrictions that I don't know whether I will be allowed to take it out of the country or not. It is of no great value, but would be quite a curiosity to us.

I am one of a Board of Foreign Consulting Engineers consisting of three Americans, which form sort of a puzzle department for the autonomous Republics of Georgia, Azerbaidjan and Armenia. Azerbaidjan lies along the Caspian and Armenia along the borders of Persia and Turkey. Each has a sort of little Reclamation Service, with a clearing house at Tiflis where we are located as an adjunct to the Transcaucasian Technical Council which in turn is under a Central Tech-

Handwritten notes:
10
Apr 11 1930
Tiflis
Ed. Fletcher

nical Council in Moscow. Our work covers everything from pumping plants to dams, so there is no danger of our becoming rusty during our absence from America.

Transcaucasia is potentially an immensely wealthy agricultural region, but practically undeveloped. For a small country, scarcely as large as California, it is astonishing how much agricultural land it contains. It formed the ancient route between Asia and Europe, and as each succeeding horde destroyed everything in its path, the inhabitants eventually became discouraged and ceased to attempt development. This at least seems a logical explanation, and also accounts for the remains of ancient cities and ruined canals that are scattered along the valley of the Kura and Arax Rivers.

It is an exceedingly interesting country and I wish I had more time to explore it. When absent from Tiflis on an inspection trip, as we frequently are, we are so rushed with the work at hand that we scarcely have time to more than glance at the ruins as we pass.

The Russians are making quite elaborate preparations for tourists in Tiflis even moving us out of the hotel, where we have been all winter, into housekeeping quarters, so they will have more room.

With kindest regards from us both to yourself and Mrs. Fletcher, and hoping that we may see you both in Transcaucasia, I am

Sincerely yours,

C. R. Olberg

C.R. Olberg,
c/o Zakvodhoz,
Tiflis, Trans.
U.S.S.R.

Washington, D.C.
February 19, 1934

Col. Ed. Fletcher,
San Diego, California.

XXX My dear Col. Fletcher:

I deferred replying to your letters until I could contact Byers. He showed up Saturday afternoon at the Cosmos Club with Mr. Bennett and advised me of the trouble they have been having with El Capitan. Byers left for San Diego the following morning, but Bennett is still here. I may be able to help some, but could have been of greater assistance if I could have been on the job earlier. However, I will do my best and hope we will be successful with El Capitan as it is a worthy project.

There is little hope, however, for Lake Hodges as at present set up. That must be entirely revamped to have any chance. I suggest that the request for the repairs of the dam be presented by the legal owners of the dam, and the contract with the City of San Diego set up as an asset. The District will have to bond itself for the repairs. I want to discuss the matter with Bennett and will do so as soon as I can contact him. Perhaps we can use the application as it stands as a basis of a new application since the State Field Force is being disbanded and new applications are no longer being received. I believe the stopping of new applications is a mistake, but the only way to remedy it is for the states to raise a row. Perhaps you can do your part for California.

XX I was advised confidentially some time ago by the R.F.C. that they required 95% of the outstanding bonds, but would accept 90% at a pinch, so if La Mesa has 95%, Lee should come on at once and close up the deal, and also secure his loan from the P.W.A. I would not wait for any more of the bonds, but shove the matter through to prevent the possibility of further delay.

XX
X I have your letter from Harritt, which ~~was returned~~ ^{was} ~~returned~~ ^{with}. You will note that Harritt apparently had all his trouble with pipe that was exposed to temperature changes. Even steel pipe

#2.

will pull apart and leak under similar conditions unless it is provided with expansion joints. The only reason that so-called spun concrete pipe is used on city mains is that city supply is usually subject to pressure, and spun pipe is better adapted to that purpose than ordinary concrete pipe, but I understand that the La Mesa line is not under pressure. If it is not, ordinary concrete pipe if properly made, is adapted to the purpose and considerably cheaper. Either variety if exposed to the air must be provided with expansion joints to avoid trouble. I have no wish to get in a jam with Harritt, but hate to see the district subject to an unnecessary expense. I would have called attention to the matter in considering the loan, as I had a perfect right, but did not do it to avoid any controversial issue, thinking I could straighten the matter out with the district later. Tell Harritt there is no objection to using spun pipe when the line is under pressure, but less than 25 pounds per square inch, it is a needless expense.

With kindest regards
C R Olberg

I have been assembling data on the West Coast of Mexico, but have not got it in shape yet. I am preparing a sort of prospectus of both Palestine and the West Coast. I am advised from a reliable source that the Mexican authorities would not look with favor on a Jewish colonization scheme. What is your opinion? It occurs to me that there must be many Germans other than Hebrews that are dissatisfied with the Nazi regime. It may be possible to organize a German Mexican American Company that would meet the requirements of all three nations, and not confine it to the Jews. I have friends in Germany that might be interested in the matter. My friend Sanders has had so many troubles of his own that I hesitated to bother him. His wife finally died a few days ago, and I will get in touch with him as soon as I decently can. I believe there is a tremendous opportunity there if we can work it out. Let me have your reaction respecting a German Mexican American organization.

I saw Ed. Hyatt and had dinner with him at a meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He promised to get Byers and myself together, but I have not seen him since, and I have been too busy to look him up.

I am sorry I did not get a chance to see you while you were here, but I was tied up with a dinner engagement. I am enclosing as per your request, two copies of my experience record for use where it will do the most good.

Mrs. Olberg and I are both grateful for the fruit which we appreciate very much. Thanking you for it, and your efforts in my behalf, I am

Sincerely yours,

C. R. Olberg.

Enc.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 20 Folder: 26

General Correspondence - Olberg, C.R.



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