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Southern Trust and Commerce Bank

COMMERCIAL SAVINGS TRUST

CAPITAL PAID IN \$1,000,000.

San Diego, Cal.

Jan. 24, 1919.

Colonel Ed Fletcher,
920 Eighth St.,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Ed:

I have yours relative to your history of the water development of San Diego County.

My recollection of the water deals of the flume and water companies were as follows:

In 1887 I came here and started to work for the San Diego Water Company under Joseph Flint as manager, E. S. Babcock being the president of the water company.

The San Diego Water Company at that time obtained water to supply the City of San Diego by pumping water from the San Diego River bed, in which the company sunk drive wells. The water was then forced into the Old Town reservoir and pressure obtained by means of the stand pipe near the reservoir.

As the town grew, more water was necessary, and a deal was made whereby the supply from the San Diego Flume Company was obtained by gravity, the University Heights reservoir being built, which was to receive the water from the flume.

I well remember the celebration which was held when the supposed connection with the flume company's line was made.

As a matter of fact, there was no flume water present at that celebration and the great head of water was obtained by pumping direct from the river bed.

Later the connection was made. Then when the flume company ran out of water after dry years, the San Diego Water Company had to resort to pumping out of the river bed again.



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In the meantime Mr. Babcock interested English people in water development and bought bonds of the San Diego Water Company and the flume company. Later the two companies were combined, the assets of the two being owned by the San Diego Consolidated Water Company.

Mr. Healion then arrived on the scene and represented the English bond holders and succeeded later in selling the water company's plant to the city for half a million dollars.

In the meantime Mr. Babcock had paralleled ^{some} the sum of the distributing system of the old company and had furnished the city with water from Coronado Heights, pumping water across the Bay, and he later sold his system to the city for \$100,000.

I think this was all that the bond holders got for their investment.

I was with the water company until the city bought out the two systems in 1902.

I think Mr. Healion can probably give you the figures on the deal and the amount that was lost by the English bond holders.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

E. O. Hodge
Vice-President.

EOH-LW

JAN 24 1919

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 72 Folder: 15

**Writings and Interviews - Water History - "Oldtimers"
interviews and letters re history (see also R. Choate
and T. Van Dyke correspondence) - Hodge, Ed**



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