


THE WATER SITUATION ~~The Inventory~~

Believing that a free discussion is necessary that you may understand the water situation under the Cuyamaca System, as I see it, is the reason for this article, and I shall be pleased to hear from any one on any phase of this subject, if you believe I am in error.

Mr. Murray and the writer bought this System June 1, 1910; Mr. Murray owning an undivided five-sixth interest, and the writer an undivided one-sixth; a Co-partnership. With the exception of a \$150.00 a month paid me for a few months, neither Mr. Murray or myself have ever drawn a cent for salary or personal expenses. We are operating the system with as few men as ever were used, at a minimum of expense, yet during the two years we have owned same, we have not received enough revenue to pay even operating expenses; instead there has been a net loss of nearly \$700.00 a month, to say nothing of depreciation of the plant and interest on the investment.

WATER RIGHTS * We furnish water to 428 inches of so called water rights, and have always refused to recognize the balance, about 180 inches, believing them illegal, and we will take the case to the Supreme Court of the United States before we will recognize same. This action of ours is an added protection to those now using water, as it makes the water go farther during any shortage. In addition, we have bought back a number of water rights and have sold none since we acquired the system;- our sales have only been domestic water where houses are built.

IMPROVEMENTS - In the face of a deficit of approximately

\$700.00 a month, we have made the following improvements;-

Cuyamaca Dam has been put in first class condition at an expense of about ¹⁰⁰⁰⁰~~\$2000~~.00. The Diverting Dam was being undermined, and in danger of going out during a flood; this danger has been forever eliminated. In addition, a contract has been let to raise the dam five feet to hold back approximately forty million gallons of water for an emergency. The most improved steel gates have been ordered to replace the old wooden gates, and the total cost of the Diverting Dam improvements, including sleucing out the silt from the site, is approximately \$11,000.00. At South Fork and Chocolate Canyons we installed nearly 3000 feet of new thirty inch steel syphons, at a cost of approximately \$12,000.00, which allowed us to abandon between three and four miles of Flume, thereby saving much in cost of maintenance, and lessened the evaporation and loss of water. At Murray Hill we have built a reservoir that holds forty-three million gallons of water; also a mile of twenty-four inch cement pipe, connecting same with Eucalyptus Dam at the end of the flume; all at a cost of \$40,000.; in order to protect our customers from loss of domestic water in case of a fire or damage to the flume. All La Mesa, Spring Valley and Lemon Grove had heretofore as an emergency supply was the small Eucalyptus Dam, which holds eight million gallons of water. We have contracted for four miles of pipe to replace the mains in our pipe line. We have spent many thousands of dollars in completely tarring the flume from one end to the other, so the leakage is now as small as

at any time in the History of the flume, and have put several thousands more in new surveys, protecting our water rights etc. The total amount spent already, over and above our receipts, is in excess of \$100,000., ^{without any direct benefit} ~~and at a time when no one knows where~~ ^{by material increase of revenue.} ~~or when we can expect to get that amount back, or any profit.~~

WATER RATES - Our predecessors sold water at different prices, some at \$30.00 an inch, some at \$45.00, \$60.00 and \$75.00; to others by the thousand gallons at from four to ten cents, in quantities for irrigation. The aim of Mr. Murray and the writer has always been to treat and charge all alike, according to quantity used, as a public service Company should do. We are charging twenty-five cents per thousand gallons for Domestic water, with a minimum of \$1.50 a month;- this is the only water we are selling, or intend to sell until this system is more fully developed. The writer is convinced that there can be no permanent solution of this water situation until there is established a uniform rate; one for Domestic service and one for irrigation, covering the entire system. ^{set it} Surely no man or corporation will invest ~~the money needed or~~ ^{the money needed or} ~~two millions of dollars~~ to develop same until this question is settled.

At the Meeting at La Mesa before the Public Utilities Commission, it was shown that the people of La Mesa, or part of them, are today getting their water at from seventy cents to one dollar a year for each family, for Domestic and Irrigation purposes, or about eight cents per month, and the balance pay ^{a minimum of} fifty cents a month. The minimum in the City of San Diego today is One Dollar a month.

The cost of water under the Water Contracts of the San Diego Flume System, including interest on your original payment of the water right, gives you water at ^{about} ~~less than~~ two cents a thousand gallons. The attached article ^{gives the rates} ~~relating to the value of water~~ ^{the leading California cities} in San Diego County will show ~~the average price of water in~~ ^{this averages from} California for Domestic purposes to be about twenty cents to twenty-five cents a thousand gallons, and for irrigating purposes \$1500. to \$2000. a Miner's Inch; while around Riverside water is worth \$250. to \$350. per acre.

The writer is the largest individual land owner and the second largest owner of so called water right contracts under the system. He has for a year used his best efforts to interest the people in forming a District and the people ^{then} own the system. Unfortunately no concerted effort has been made by those interested to accomplish this result, although the writer has several times offered his holdings at cost and interest, and for three months Mr. Murray was willing to sell at a small margin of profit. Now that the people have appealed to the Railroad Commission, we feel that before increasing materially ^{our} investment, it is for the best interest of all concerned that we ask, and we have applied to the Railroad Commission to investigate and establish rates for the Cuyamaca System, both for Domestic and Irrigation purposes. It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Murray will not put the necessary money into its development unless he is assured of a reasonable revenue. If we had well invested the same amount of money two years ago into San Diego City or County property, our investment would ^{today}

have been doubled. ~~Any one must admit that to date the showing as a money maker puts this system at the bottom of the list.~~
If the rates to be established will assure a reasonable income, and warrant Mr. Murray in developing the system, the writer is satisfied the money will be forthcoming, and at an early date.

Ed Fletcher

Interview *(not printed)*
MARCKS DAMSITE AT THE HEAD OF THE CUYAMACA FLUME ACQUIRED
BY CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY

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A deed was put on record today whereby K. L. May deeded to Ed Fletcher the following described property, consisting of 160 acres on which is located the so-called "Fletcher" damsite that has been so much in controversy:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$; E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$; and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ all in Section 2, Township 14, S. R. 2 East S. B. M. according to map thereof on file in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, California.

Colonel Fletcher today issued the following statement:

"So much has been said to the effect that the Cuyamaca Water Company does not control the damsite at the head of our flume, that I want to correct a very common belief. Mr. Healion does not control, and never did own the damsite at the head of our Cuyamaca flume, or diverting dam, neither is it within the El Capitan reservation. Actual surveys were made, and the damsite, which is the best in that section, is located on the Otto Marcks property, 160 acres, which we have purchased and a deed for same went on record today.

"Exploration work is completed at the damsite, including test pits and core drillings, and satisfactory bedrock for any type of a dam has been found at a depth of from 10 to 28 feet. We are now condemning something like 200 acres of land owned by Mr. Healion, that will be flooded when the dam is constructed.

This dam and reservoir will be of immense value to the Cuyamaca system when completed, as it will not only conserve the waters of the San Diego River that may flow into it, but it will eventually be a diverting dam for the waters that may be brought

Interview

from the Santa Ysabel River thru the Ramona valley, a distance of 15-1/2 miles, with a power drop of 900 feet into the so-called "Fletcher" reservoir site.

"I feel sure in time this development will be made and the net safe yield of the Cuyamaca System, in conjunction with the Sutherland reservoir will be approximately 15 million gallons daily, and as cheap water as ever will be developed in San Diego County. "

A telegraphic dispatch from Washington today states that the Hamilton application to the United States Government presented by Judge L. L. Boone has been rejected. This means that Washington has refused to recognize the validity of the Hamilton water filings on the San Diego River or give their consent to allowing the building of the El Capitan Reservoir and flooding Indian Reservation lands. It is the Hamilton water filing and surveys which Judge L. L. Boone a short time ago offered to sell to the City of San Diego for \$11,000, which offer was rejected by the City Council. The Hamilton water filings were made at the El Capitan Dam site which property the Cuyamaca Water Company now own and the offer of sale by Judge Boone to the City of San Diego of these water filings was what caused a lively controversy between the owners of the Cuyamaca Water Company and Judge Boone.

The Cuyamaca Water Company, through their manager, Col. Ed Fletcher, made the statement to the City Council that the fake water filings were valueless. Judge Boone in a vigorous denial called Fletcher a liar and attempted to prove his case to the City Council without avail.

Colonel Fletcher today on being asked if he had heard of the action taken at Washington said "We received a telegram from our attorneys Britton & Gray today confirming the rejection of the Hamilton application. There was no question about the final outcome. The Cuyamaca Water Company asked permission to make a

protest against the Hamilton filings at Washington and our attorneys said that there would be no need of going to that expense. The fact that the Government rejected their application without even giving us a chance to show Hamilton & Boone up, clearly indicates what value the application has.

The Cuyamaca Water Company own the land on which the water filings were made as well as the El Capitan Damsite and this property together with the rest of the Cuyamaca holdings are included in our contract of sale to the La Mesa Irrigation District.

preliminary

Interview of Col. Fletcher.

I certainly appreciate the compliment given me by the Imperial Valley Press in suggesting that I am a large enough man to represent this district in Congress. I have given the matter no consideration whatever; nevertheless I am glad to have this expression, and to know that my efforts to bring into closer relationship San Diego and Imperial Counties are appreciated.

[4/19/14 -
- TRIBUNE]

INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL ED FLETCHER.

In your columns yesterday morning, Judge Boone calls me a liar repeatedly, and attacks my good name in this community in these words:

"As far as his general reputation is concerned, he has regarded it simply as a matter of business, to fleece his most intimate business associates."

There are statements in his letter with which I might take issue; but it is impossible for me with self-respect to continue a discussion with the type of man who will resort to villification of this sort. The issue of my personal integrity I am in the nature of the case powerless to discuss. I am satisfied to leave my reputation in the hands of the men who have had business dealings with me.

Copy to Tribune.

CUYAMACA DOMESTIC RATES INCREASED 1000% BY DECISION OF RAILROAD COMMISSION AFFECTING NEWLY SUBDIVIDED LANDS. -----

Old Water Right Contract Rates Ignored.

A decision has just been handed down by the Railroad Commission in favor of and vitally affecting the value of the Cuyamaca system, and on subdivided lands rates have been increased nearly 1000% where water right contracts formerly existed.

Many years ago the old San Diego Flume Company, now the Cuyamaca Water Company, before the Railroad Commission existed, sold water right contracts at from \$150 to \$1000 and inch perpetual flow, with a maintenance charge varying from \$30 to \$60 per inch per year.

On March 28, 1913, the Railroad Commission of the state assumed jurisdiction over all rates, and rendered its decision in favor of the Cuyamaca Water Company, increasing the maintenance charge for irrigating water to a uniform price of \$70 per inch on the Cuyamaca Water Company distributing system, and \$65 per inch where water is taken directly from the flume itself. The consumers or holders of the old water right contracts had six months in which to appeal from the decision of the Commission; otherwise their right of appeal elapsed forever. They did not take advantage of this right of appeal, and since the spring of 1913 they have paid the new rates

established by the Commission, thereby acknowledging jurisdiction.

There are 20 or 30 tracts of land, including several hundred acres, which were supplied with water under these old water right contracts at an irrigation rate, which have recently been subdivided into small tracts. There has been considerable friction between the Cuyamaca Water Company and the consumers as to what rate should apply on these subdivided lands, whether domestic or irrigation. The controversy was brought to a head when the Railroad Commission, on its own initiative, last July, called a regular hearing of the case. The decision and order of the Railroad Commission just rendered is as follows:

"It is hereby ordered by the Railroad Commission of the State of California that the Cuyamaca Water Company establish the following rates for domestic water consumers, as defined by Rule 8.

"In every instance where water is not delivered at the expense of the Company to the property line of the individual consumer, to-wit, a minimum monthly payment during use 75¢. When meters are installed, per 1000 gallons 15¢."

This rate of 15¢ a thousand gallons applies to all tracts of one-half acre or less. The irrigation rate of \$70 per inch still applies to all larger tracts. The irrigation rate of \$70 per inch is approximately 1-1/2¢ per thousand gallons. The order of the Commission just received making a rate of 15¢ per thousand gallons means an increase of rate of 1000% to the domestic consumers over the old irrigation rate, and the ignoring

entirely of the old water right contracts as far as the rates are concerned.

Heretofore much of this land has been subdivided into 50 and 75-foot lots, and with each lot has been deeded from 1/50 to 1/90 of an inch of water right, with the result that for years many families have been receiving their domestic supply of water at from 15¢ to 25¢ a month.

The Railroad Commission by this decision again ignores the old water right contracts.

[4/19/14 papers -
see notes to
Mr. McGraw, SUN
& Mr. MARION, TRIBUNE
dated June 21/22
1914]

INTERVIEW WITH COL. ED FLETCHER

Judge Boone's article on the water question in Sunday morning's Union is interesting. I see that it is marked "Advertisement." No doubt the Union was ashamed to print it as news on account of its inaccuracy.

Boone now certainly has water on the brain. He says we have offered the Cuyamaca system to the city for \$2,500,000. We never have offered it to the city at all, but right now we will knock at least a million off of Boone's price and be glad to sell it.

Boone's reference to rotten flume is a direct slap at the Railroad Commission of this state, who ordered and have approved officially all of our work to date. The Railroad Commission at the last rate hearing determined that the full demand on our system is 256 inches. Boone says 650 inches. Whose judgment will you take?

La Mesa reservoir is full and one foot above the spillway - more water than ever has been put into La Mesa Lake, and it all had to get there through our so-called "rotten" flume, the life of which is at least eight years, according to the sworn testimony of P. E. Harroun, formerly Chief Engineer for the Railroad Commission. My judgment is that the flume will be there in serviceable condition twelve years hence.

Boone, in his travels up and down, failed to see thousands of feet of concrete siphon, nearly two miles of steel flume and trestle to replace the old wooden trestles; altogether between \$400,000 and \$500,000 cash expended for the development of the system by Mr. Murray and myself during the last four years.

Boone refers to the old so-called water contracts. We have no desire to take any water from anyone, and could not if we wanted to, but the Railroad Commission has decided for all time (as the right of appeal has elapsed) that the price of water must be raised to give us a living rate, so, if the city does take over our system, it will be purchasing a going concern with a good revenue, paying at least seven or eight per cent on its investment for water sold to outsiders; while the city has the advantage of securing any additional water not needed for the Cuyamaca consumers. The question naturally comes up, how much is that? How much water is available? Boone talks 23,000,000,000 gallons. Are you going to believe him or the Railroad Commission of the state, who has been months investigating conditions and according to their decision, there is less than 1000 inches or 4,000,000,000 gallons per year not now being put to beneficial use.

Boone says "I can give to the city a reservoir capacity of 10,000,000 gallons a day for seven years." Now let's get down to business and talk water, not capacity.

The water fillings of the Cuyamaca Water Company when fully perfected by construction of reservoirs in the mountains which we now control will leave practically no water whatever for Judge Boone's windy proposition. At the proper time Hamilton's fillings will be shown up as absolutely worthless.

Boone's opposition to us and his activities in this matter are easily understood. He and Healion loaded up the Cuyamaca system with a questionable transfer of 150 inches of so-called water rights for a consideration of \$120,000. The validity of these they will have ample opportunity to prove. Later on Hamilton, two of our former employees Sackett and Hagar, Boone and others conceived this El Capitan scheme, but being entirely unable to finance it on account of its absurdity and on account of our purchase of the lands on which the damsite was to be constructed, their game is now simply to get whatever they can out of it. At an early date I shall present to the city council of San Diego certain data that will corroborate my statement in every way as to the absurdity of Boone's claim.

Judge Boone says he will build a dam 100 feet high for \$659,000 at El Capitan damsite on our ground. Five of the best engineers of the state have refused to pass their judgment on whether it is a good damsite or not, as bedrock is estimated at anywhere from 75 to 200 feet in depth. Yet Boone is not afraid to say what is under the ground without examination.

Boone says he will deliver several times more water from El Capitan damsite than from the entire volcanic system. I would suggest that those who are interested read the U. S. Government reports for this year's run-off of water, and they will find that nearly twice as much water passed Warner's dam alone this year than on the San Diego River and practically the same condition prevails at Carroll Damsite. The following are actual U. S. Government figures for run-off:

From July 1, 1913 to May 15, 1914

Warners Damsite,	7,070,000,000 gallons
San Dieguito River at Carroll's Damsite	7,320,000,000 "
Total Run-off Volcan System,	14,390,000,000 "

for 10 1/2 months this last season.

San Diego River at diverting dam, including Cuyamaca Lake Catchment, 3,846,000,000 for same period.

What Judge Boone really meant to say was that if he could build a dam to hold 23,000,000,000 gallons at El Capitan damsite it would take seven years to fill it.

Referring to the Volcan Company's offer to the city, the people of San Diego may better comprehend the quantity of water that can be developed when I state that the best engineering reports show that the Volcan system alone will furnish more water to the City of San Diego than is furnished by the Spring Valley Company and used in the City of San Francisco.

I enjoyed reading Boone's epistle this morning. If there are any further issues please have them forwarded to my address El Portal Hotel, Yosemite Valley.

Office copy

A.H.
ED FLETCHER AND ~~ED~~ SWEET ANSWER BOONE'S ATTACK ON CUYAMACA
SYSTEM.

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Judge Boone says in the Union that the Cuyamaca System is inadequate and worthless. When Mr. Murray and I bought the system four years ago Boone told me it was worth a million. Now the only thing that is worth anything is his fake water filing made at the El Capitan Dam site, which Mr. Murray and I own. When he found out that we owned it, he moved the proposed dam site up stream three miles, onto the Indian Reservation. The U. S. Indian Department in their report have turned him down cold. See records at Washington.

It would be a joke to put a dam on the Indian Reservation, for it would flood the diverting dam, covering the same with 40 or 50 feet of water, as well as miles of our flume line, and it would mean the running out of their homes of one hundred Indians. The U. S. Government will never allow it.

The Cuyamaca Water Company's ^{water} rights are thirty years old, and cannot be assailed. Our water filings for the excess flood waters antedate Boone's fake filings by over two years, even if his water filings were valid.

The reason for Boone's attack on us at this time is his numerous defeats in court by Judge Sweet the last two or three weeks. Judge Sloane has

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rendered a decision which is not to Boone's liking, and which will undoubtedly force him to go to the Railroad Commission, and present his fictitious claims for water on our system. Boone used mighty poor judgment in not going to the Railroad Commission in the first place. He also used poor judgment in trying to hold Murray and Fletcher up for \$9955 for two acres of land that we wanted for right of way. We condemned it, and less than two weeks ago twelve good jurymen allowed him \$328.50, which he accepted without appeal.

The Judge thinks he has something to sell to the city. He has been working for a year on it, but the City Council has not acted, and in my opinion never will, for his fake water filing is not worth the paper it is written on.

The Railroad Commission of this state has determined that the entire demands on the Cuyamaca system is 257 inches, and they will establish a rate that will pay a reasonable rate of interest on their valuation. Any excess water over and above the 257 inches the City can do with as it sees fit.

^{control}
We are the only two reservoir sites on the San Diego River - the El Capitan and the diverting dam. The life of our present flume is at least eight years according to the testimony of Mr. Harroun, ex-Chief Engineer of the Railroad Commission. We furnished the City of San Diego with between two million and three million gallons of water a day the last year for three months, and could have furnished the full supply of four or five million gallons in excess of our requirements if it had not been that the city

had only a 12-inch pipe line from the city limits to the University Heights reservoir.

Since we have relined our flume with rubberoid roofing we kept a record for an entire week of the loss of water from one end of the system to the other, and it was practically nil. During the summer months the loss is approximately 5%, no more than it would be in any cement conduit by evaporation. On December 1, 1914, our flume will be in condition to deliver 22,000,000 gallons of flood waters daily to La Mesa, at the end of the flume. By building three miles of pipe line connecting our flume with the Chollas pipe line from Otay Dam, owned by the city, we shall be able to put millions of gallons of water daily into the Otay Dam, as the elevation of our flume is 640 feet at La Mesa, while the spillway of Otay Lake is approximately 500 feet, giving us a head in excess of 130 feet. In addition, we shall be able to furnish for five months during this winter the entire supply to the City of San Diego, from flood waters, as well as taking care of all consumers on the line, and putting the usual amount of storage water into La Mesa Lake.

If the city purchases the Cuyamaca system, La Mesa Lake is a most valuable asset, as the dam can be raised to 100 feet in height, and will hold billions of gallons. It is only six or eight miles from the city limits, and La Mesa Lake is at a sufficient elevation to furnish water by gravity over the entire system, without recourse to booster plants, or water will flow by gravity into Otay Dam.

The city will be getting, in addition, four of the best reservoir sites in the mountains, and will be acquiring all of our water rights, which are superior and antedate any fake water rights of Boone or ^{any filings of} the La Mesa Irrigation District, and include as well our 36 miles of flume and many miles of distributing system.

Boone states that the flood waters of the San Diego River coming through our flume would be unfit for domestic use. Any man who made that statement on the witness stand would be considered insane by any jury.

Our offer to the City does not require a bond issue - in fact, the system will pay for itself in a few years. The gross receipts allowed by the Railroad Commission based on the valuation of 1912 is \$66,000 a year. When a valuation is placed on the system this winter, there is no doubt but what rates will be established that will more than double the present income for we have put between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in cash into the development of this system within the last two years.

Boone says that the water right contracts are binding, despite what may be said to the contrary by Fletcher and Murray. Whether these contracts are binding or not, we have no desire and never will attempt to take any water rights away from any man who is putting water to beneficial use, our only contention to the Railroad Commission being that an equitable rate should be established for the furnishing of that water. The Railroad Commission has seen fit to regulate those rates which the consumers shall pay. ^{on}

Aug. 13, 1914

Interview of Colonel Ed. Fletcher.

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As far as the fake contracts which Boone's client loaded our system up with, just a few days before the system was taken over, the best man to handle Boone is ~~some~~ A. H. Sweet, who our attorney says the whole thing is illegal, and ^{our attorney} has won out on every point in court to date. This explains Boone's vicious attack on the Cuyamaca system. He is losing out on all sides, and will soon be compelled to make an explanation to his client that will not be wholly satisfactory.

The city should own every reservoir site and all water supplies in San Diego County, and the quicker the better.

San Diego should own every reservoir site, and control the waters of San Diego County. There is not the amount of water in San Diego County that people imagine. In less than ten years we will be after water from the Los Angeles aqueduct for San Diego County, if we can get it.

Our offer to the city of the Cuyamaca System is such that the city can acquire it without bonding the city for a dollar. The Railroad Commission, thru its Engineer Mr. Harroun, placed a valuation on the physical properties of the Cuyamaca Water Company on July 1, 1912 of \$432,934. Mr. Harroun's valuation on the Cuyamaca System, before the Commission June 1st, 1914, was \$809.022.

These valuations, mentioned above, do not include the value of water rights, intangible values, going concerns, etc.

Magner White's water article on the San Diego River in Wednesday's "Sun" is a real thriller, particularly that in reference to my having a million profit almost within my grasp; but, alas! it is only a pipe dream. The fiery imagination of White is unsurpassed.

The fact is the Cuyamaca System, costing originally in excess of \$1,200,000, was purchased by us in 1910 for \$150,000. No dividend has ever been paid. All profits have been left in the Company for development. The actual cost of money invested ^{by} Murray, Henshaw and Fletcher, including 7% interest of the Cuyamaca System alone is in excess of \$1,300,000 today, while the entire Cuyamaca System and Mission Gorge damsite and lands which I control could have been bought for \$1,500,000 by the city on the basis of \$50,000 down, and \$100,000 a year at 5% interest, if it was for the best interests of San Diego that it be purchased.

The new owners - Mr. Stern and myself, do not want to sell.

The building of Fletcher Dam and South Fork is already financed, and if a compromise can be made with the City giving its consent for us to build those two dams we can have them completed within fourteen months from date, and the City buying any and all surplus water it wants from us at 10¢ a hundred cubic feet, or at a rate established by the Railroad Commission of California. This would give the City an opportunity to immediately build Mission Gorge Dam; endless litigation would be eliminated; and the golden stream now running into the ocean to the value of four or five hundred thousand dollars a year could be saved to the county.

Time will show that our water developed will cost the City less than one-half the cost of the water already developed.

My one desire is, to serve the City. I feel that we are entitled to a legitimate ^{profit} interest on our investment. It may not be until after I

am dead, but in time the citizens of San Diego will appreciate that I am trying to serve the City that I love, and am only asking a reasonable compensation for service rendered.

INTERVIEW COLONEL ED FLETCHER

I was amazed to read in this morning's paper the reasons given by the Mayor and Council for opposing the request of the Navy to let the Cuyamaca Water Company furnish them with water. They give the following reasons:

First - That it would jeopardize the rights of the City in the litigation now in progress for the control of the San Diego River.

The above is not true, for I agreed to a stipulation with City Attorney Higgins that would protect both parties in interest, such as has heretofore been made at different times with the City when we furnished them with water.

The City's second reason is that the Cuyamaca Water Company has not sufficient water to guarantee constant delivery of all the Navy needs. This statement is not true. Mayor Bacon brought up at the meeting the testimony of one Charles H. Lee in 1915 as to insufficiency of water based on the old contracts. The old contracts called for 528 inches of water. The total demands on our system for the last year have not exceeded 300 inches, and since 1915 we have completely developed the El Monte pumping plants, built Murray Dam, Murray Hill Reservoir, and more than doubled our supply of water. The Government engineers' investigations show a surplus, and they are satisfied to enter into the contract.

When the City needed water in 1916 we took care of them to the amount of \$51,000 at 10¢ a thousand gallons; in 1921 to the amount of \$78,000 at 10¢ a thousand gallons.

The City's third statement is that the water delivered to the City would be unfiltered, necessitating installation of filters at considerable expense. This statement is untrue, as the Cuyamaca Water Company will bear this expense.

The City says that it costs 6¢ a thousand gallons to distribute the water after it arrives in the city. We have offered to pay 1¢ a thousand gallons to the City.

The City officials did not state the benefits accruing by this deal - that it could save the City expending \$85,000 for another stand pipe, that it could save thousands of dollars annually now being paid to pump water for University Heights and Mission Hills for the reason that the City's supply coming from Chollas Reservoir is 375 feet elevation, while coming from Murray Dam, the elevation is approximately 550 feet, giving sufficient pressure without any cost of pumping by the City, to take care of University Heights and Mission Hills.

The City officials did not state that we would spend \$50,000 to \$70,000 putting in 16" cast iron pipe to the easterly city limits, connecting Murray Dam direct, thereby giving much additional pressure - very valuable in time of emergency to the City, and probably lowering insurance rates.

One added point in conclusion - the Navy has just so much money for water allowed them. By buying this cheaper water they can get a larger amount and beautify the grounds around the Marine Base and Naval Training Station - an added attraction to the City.

The Cuyamaca Water Company can sell water at a profit at 15¢, while City Auditor Moody is the authority that every drop of the City's water costs approximately 19½¢.

Why stand in the way of the Navy getting cheaper water, the town getting the benefit, and the Cuyamaca Water Company getting the business? Only the City Council can tell what their reasons are for opposing this beneficial arrangement.

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Colonel Fletcher's Statements Council Meeting Tuesday afternoon
Reasons Why City Should Allow Cuyamaca Company
To Furnish Water To The Government Through the City's Pipelines.

First: The City will be conserving its own water supply to the extent now furnished the Government.

Second: The City will save many thousands of dollars annually - the present cost of operating the booster pumping plants for University Heights and Mission Hills supply - which cost will be entirely eliminated as the Cuyamaca Water Company will furnish those territories by gravity under pressure, which is not the case with the City's water, as the City's supply coming from Chollas Reservoir is only 375 feet elevation, while Murray Dam is nearly 550 feet elevation above sea level.

Third: It eliminates the necessity of spending the \$85,000 for another stand pipe at University Heights, which money could be used for future water development. The contract to build the new stand pipe has been let since this offer was made by the Cuyamaca Company. The City now has to pump water nearly 100 feet which would be entirely eliminated after the new arrangement was made.

Fourth: City Auditor Moody says the cost of the City's water is approximately 20¢. That is what the Government is now paying, and the City cannot afford to sell for less than cost while the Cuyamaca Company can sell to the Government at a profit at 13¢.

Fifth: The Cuyamaca Water Company would have to spend sixty or seventy thousand dollars in building a cast iron pipe to Boundary Street, the city limits of San Diego. By connecting up with the City's system under pressure from Murray Dam, it means an additional water supply for the City in time of emergency, and possibly a reduction in insurance rates.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 54 Folder: 2

Business Records - Water Companies - Cuyamaca Water Company - Early Ed Fletcher interviews and articles



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