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The City Water Ditches.

Although, in the every day strife and turmoil of life it may be forgotten, yet it is none the less true that the water of the river of Los Angeles is the life giving principle and the food of the city. It was the facility and the advantages for the irrigation of land which the river offered to the tillers of the soil, that gave birth to this city, and nurtured it in its infancy, and still furnishes the chief substance for its support.

If any one doubts this fact, we ask him to reflect one moment upon what would be the condition and future prospects of this town should the river cease to furnish water for the purpose of irrigation. As water for irrigation gave existence to the city and is the aliment which sustains its prosperity, it needs no argument to convince its inhabitants

that growing crops need it is of the utmost importance. A few days delay will prove fatal to his crop and render all his toil and labor profitless. Such results as these should be as far as possible guarded against by those who are entrusted by the people with the control and management of this stream of the life-blood of the city.

We do not assume to affirm that such will be the result attending the proposed change of location for the water wheel, because it requires the knowledge of a civil engineer, and a survey by him, to ascertain the exact facts in the case. But we believe the facts to be very near what we have stated, and if so the conclusions at which we arrive are surely correct. And knowing that men in authority do not always see with the eyes of those affected by their official acts, we would earnestly call the attention of the people interested in an ample and permanent supply of water for irrigation, to the proposition now pending in the Council. Each cultivator of the soil in the city had far better spend two or three days at this present time, in examining and thoroughly investigating the proposed plan, even if the result of his investigations should lead to the conclusion that we are mistaken, and that no injury can result by carrying into effect the proposed measure, than to suffer the loss of his crops by the want of water wherewith to irrigate his field and his orchard next summer. All we wish is that the cultivators of the soil may be awake and watchful, and if there is any danger threatening them, that they guard against it before the Council, by its action, shall close the way of escape. As the officers are placed upon the walls to watch the people, so let the people, from their places, watch the officers upon the walls of the city that they do not, even by accident or want of foresight, cast dust in the eyes of the people, and thus innocently and without design prevent the people from seeing what is doing in their midst.

that every measure which diverts the water needed for irrigation from that object, or which renders its acquisition more difficult or expensive, or more uncertain and precarious, diminishes the prosperity of the city and injures the people in exact proportion to the increased cost and the interruption in obtaining the needed supply of water.

The recent rain having carried away the dam built for the city water works, a proposition is now pending before the Common Council to move the elevating wheel of the water works from its present location, and place it in the old ditch through which all the water ditches on the west side of the river formerly received their water, but which, since the building of the dam and water wheel, has been used as a ditch for the waste water from the pond. The head of this ditch is considerably lower than the head of the ditch leading under the water wheel. The two ditches unite before reaching the Los Angeles flouring mill. To turn the elevating wheel of the water works requires a fall of five feet at the wheel. If the wheel is moved and placed upon the lower or old ditch, the grade of that ditch must be altered in order to obtain this fall of five feet at the wheel.

It is proposed to place the wheel in the old ditch, a little over sixteen hundred feet from and below the gate at the head of the ditch. To get the required fall of five feet, the grade of the ditch is to be so altered that the ditch will have but three and two-thirds feet fall in all this distance, from the gate at the dam to the water wheel, and from the wheel for the distance of six hundred and sixty feet below, the ditch will have a fall of only eight feet per mile.

We believe it must be apparent to every person who is in the least conversant with the diminished or accelerated velocity of the current of a stream or ditch of water, as the grade or fall of the ditch is lessened or increased, that the grade or fall which the ditch will have, both between the wheel and the dam, as well as for a long distance below the wheel—if this plan is carried into effect—will be so little, that the current will lack force to carry along the great quantity of sand which comes into the ditch, but that it will all settle and be left in this comparatively still water. The consequence will be that the upper part of the ditch, for a length of more than two thousand feet, will be continually filling up with sand, which must be removed by hand, and as constantly as the sand is required to be removed from the ditch continually, so must from of necessity the water be turned out of the ditch into the river. This will not only entail an expense upon the city, or upon those who use the water, but will lessen by far the number of days in which there will be water in the ditches for sale by the city to those who wish to irrigate. It will also render the time of obtaining water more uncertain and precarious. The revenue from water will be diminished and the product of the soil lessened. To the tiller of the soil in this city, whether that tillage is for the grape, for fruit or for field crops, the certainty of obtaining water when his