



ALAN SEEKS WATER FACTS

Council Resolution to Ask Mayor and Service Board
To Reveal Plans in Aqueduct Row

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Councilman Allan announced yesterday that in order that the City Council be officially informed as to the steps being taken by the Board of Public Service Commissioners toward ending the wasting of water through the actions of some landowners of the Owens River Valley he will introduce a resolution at today's meeting of the Council asking for a statement of facts. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, following a series of lawless outbreaks, such as dynamiting and kidnaping, the portion of the Los Angeles city aqueduct known as the Alabama gates has passed into the possession of a mob, and

Whereas, this mob is openly defying the city of Los Angeles and the Superior court of Inyo county in refusing to obey an order of court surrendering said gates to the city, and

Whereas, such possession has now continued since Sunday morning with the citizens of Owens Valley now building shacks in which to live and maintain possession of the gates for an indefinite length of time, and

Whereas, the city is losing \$15,000 worth of water each day with the prospect of having the aqueduct completely destroyed at certain places by dynamiting, and

Whereas, there is liable to be a water shortage and Inyo county might be held liable for the loss of water but such liability would not recover the water which might be needed,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Mayor and the Public Service Commission be advised that it is the opinion of this Council that the time has come for definite action, said commission is hereby requested to advise this body what action it is taking or intends to take to secure the immediate return to this city of its property known as the Alabama gates, or any other such property which may be seized by the citizens of Owens Valley.

In answer to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce resolution supporting the raiders and attacking the policy of the Board of Public Service Commissioners, R.F. Del Valle, president of the board, issued a statement today in which he accused the ranchers of bad faith.

He pointed to a resolution adopted on October 14, last, in which the board pledged itself to leave permanently under irrigation approximately 80,000 acres of land in the valley and do all in its power to bring about the development and conservation of the water resources of the valley under a plan which would assure a full supply of water for the irrigated areas as well as the aqueduct.

The board also appointed a special committee of three, composed of WB. Mathews, its chief counsel, Chief Engineer Van Norman and Engineer Lewis C. Hill, to make a thorough study of the situation in the valley, Mr. Del Valle declared.

Progress toward a solution of the entire problem was being made, he said, when the ranchers broke faith and seized the Alabama waste gate, throwing it open and permitting vast quantities of water to escape to the flat where it could never be recovered or used.

The Sheriff of Los Angeles county is not empowered to send deputies to Inyo county should an emergency arise in the aqueduct water fight that would require the presence of men to protect the city's property, Deputy County Counsel Kline ruled yesterday.

"The expenses of such an expedition," Kline said, "could not be paid by Los Angeles county, for one thing. The Board of Supervisors is not authorized to expend county funds for such purposes as sending deputies to another county to protect the property or persons or corporations resident in this county.

"The authority of the Sheriff is co-extensive within the boundaries of the county and, unless he had a warrant for a fugitive from justice, he would carry no more weight in Inyo county than any other private citizen of Los Angeles county."

In response to a query from Sheriff Traeger of Los Angeles county asking if he would send aid in case of trouble, Sheriff Walser of Kern county yesterday notified Sheriff Traeger that he would not be able to do so.

"I cannot see that I have any authority in the matter whatever," Sheriff Walser replied.