



PEACE MOVES ARE STARTED IN WAR OVER AQUEDUCT

Raiders Agree to Disband if State Troops Sent to Water Gates; Judge Disqualifies Self

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11-20-1924

LONE PINE, Nov. 19. — Peace moves to bring about a truce in the war over the Aqueduct were set afoot today. The efforts to end the tension and possibility of armed conflict resulting from the seizure of the Alabama waste gates of the Aqueduct by a band of Owens Valley ranchers and business men, however were checkmated to some extent by the action of Judge Dehy of the Inyo County Superior Court late this afternoon in disqualifying himself to sit in the Aqueduct case.

Judge Dehy's order in disqualifying himself to sit in the case also vacated all orders and injunctions issued by him against the band of raiders in possession of the waste gates. As a result of his action the band encamped about the gates is left absolutely without court restraint, the injunction issued against them being void.

SEEKS TROOPS

The first move to supplant law and arbitration for armed force came from Dist. Atty. Hession. He obtained the oral assurance of the band of raiders at the waste gates that they would disband immediately upon the arrival of State troops and a short time later set out for Sacramento to make a personal appeal to Gov. Richardson for a skeleton force of guardsmen at the waste gates.

Reports from the camp stated that the ranchers will not turn over the gates unless not less than fifty State militiamen in uniform were sent thee. No other consideration will cause them to stop the waste of water, they are reported to have said.

Sheriff Collins also stated that he had sent a telegram to Atty. Gen. Webb at San Francisco requesting him to attend the conference between Gov. Richardson and Dist. Atty. Hession. Collins declared he had asked the Governor for troops three times in all.

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce, which previously indorsed the action of the mob, today joiner in the appeal for State troops. The sending of troops, it is asserted here, is looked upon by the ranchers as necessary to make their ... than a dispute affecting only Los Angeles and Owens Valley. This is necessary for the ranchers to receive a "square deal," spokesmen for the ranchers assert.

The action of Dist. Atty. Hession represented the first tangible attempt toward a truce. A short time later, however, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, in session at Independence, followed his lead.

They called into conference Karl Keough, president of the Owens valley Ditch Company and a recognized leader among the ranchers, and asked him if a resolution which would lay the groundwork for a board of arbitration in the Aqueduct problem would cause the ranchers to withdraw.

REFUSES TO ANSWER

Mr. Keough refused to answer the board's query until he had conferred with W. W. Watterson, banker of Bishop, and other representatives of the ranchers. This conference was scheduled for late today and the answer is expected immediately after its conclusion.

The county Supervisors of Inyo county offered to have either Senator Hiram Johnson appoint an arbitration committee or to have the State Railroad Commission sit as an arbitration body in the case of the ranchers and business men would agree to disperse and lay their case before such an arbitration body.

The board is composed of George Neylor, chairman, Charles Partridge, C. E. Johnson, W. W. Butler and Amos P. Hancock.

The peace developments over-shadowed the self-imposed disqualification of Judge Dehy, but this was by far the most dramatic development in the fight over the Aqueduct today.

His disqualification affects only the temporary restraining order. It does not affect the damage action instituted by the city against the seventy-five or more defendants named, all of whom will be required to appear in the Inyo county court on or before the 28th inst.

Judge Dehy is disqualified under the law preventing a judge, even though not interested, from sitting in a local cause of general public interest in a community in which he lives and concerning which there is likely to develop an active public opinion or strong feeling which might embarrass him in his ruling in such case, especially where one party to the action is outside the municipality or is a corporation, and in which case the local affairs and property interests might be affected.

PREVENTS LEGAL ACTION

S. B. Robinson, special counsel for the Board of Public Service Commissioners, and Attorney Henshaw, another lawyer for the board, arrived at Independence today with the intention of demanding court citations for the members of the raiding band which has seized the Alabama gates. The dramatic withdrawal of Judge Dehy from the case, however, prevented their appearance in court.

In the meantime no lessening in the tension throughout the valley was visible. The band at the control gates is being constantly reinforced. The greatest number of men and women to gather at the gates to date assembled there yesterday. The women prepared a barbecue for the men and served 700 persons, many of them children who had been brought with them from Bishop.

When Mr. Hession arrived at the gates on his peace mission he engaged in a short parley with the guards.

“Will you disperse without a demonstration of any kind with the arrival of State troops?”

A half-hundred ranchers and business men assembled about him answered. They roared, “Yes.”

Immediately after receiving this answer Mr. Hession left for Sacramento to present his personal appeal for State troops to Gov. Richardson.

GOVERNOR WILL MEET HESSION TODAY

SACRAMENTO, Nov 19. – Governor Richardson, it was announced at the executive office late today, will leave early tomorrow for San Francisco and will not be at his office when Dist. Atty. Hession of Inyo county arrives here to appeal personally for State troops to oust the men who are diverting water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Referring to reports that Atty. Gen. Webb might be called to attend a conference between the Governor and the Inyo county prosecutor, it was said at the Governor’s office that while there had been no official announcement, it was very probable that Webb would not be invited to attend a meeting should one be arranged.