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Letter from Helen L. Elliot to William F. Bade, 1913 Oct 13.

Helen L. Elliot

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California Federation of Women's Clubs



1505 Tst. N.W.

Washington D.C.

October 13-1913

Dr. William F. Bode,
Berkeley, California,

My dear Dr. Bode;-

I am venturing to write to you regarding a conservation measure, thinking I may be of some help. I am speaking of the "Hetch Hetchy Bill" which is before the Senate. At the call of Mrs. Emmens Creeker, Conservation chairman, General Federation of Women's Clubs, I went to see Senator Perkins regarding this matter, needless to say he is in favor of the bill. Senator Weeks is in California, and judging by the telegrams of his which were read in the Senate, is apparently doing all he can for the cause.

I attended the Senate on Oct. 4th. and again on Oct. 7th.; when this question was argued pretty thoroughly and, as no doubt you know, Mr. Borah, of Idaho, and his friends who are opposing the measure, succeeded in putting off any further debate until the first Monday in December and the vote to be taken not later than the sixth.

This morning I went to see Senator Borah and he says that more convincing arguments must be presented or the Bill will pass. The aesthetic side of the question is well understood and that will not save the Valley. We are informed that the tax payers of San Francisco are now well split in their wish for the Valley. Many feel that they are simply being called upon to finance a great water power company and that much of the bond issue has already been wasted by Mr. Long and his associates.

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Dr. W.F.B.

Senator Berah feels that the San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts are to be considered and from telegrams read they seem to be bitterly opposed to this measure. Mr. Works' telegram states "that ninety nine per cent of water users in the irrigation districts are against it, and claim that they were betrayed by those who consented to the compromise measure. They claim that thousands of acres of land in their districts and outside of them will be deprived of water to which they are entitled and that they can show that this sacrifice of the best and most fertile lands in the State is not necessary to the interest of San Francisco. Because of this compromise, that they indignantly repudiate, this phase of the question has not been investigated!"

So far the arguments against the Bill have not been strong enough- if concrete information can be brought to Messrs. Berah, Peindexter, Bristow, and Grenaa, and they are convinced that San Francisco can get water elsewhere and that San Joaquin Valley needs the water,- then they will do all in their power to defeat the Bill. Mr. Berah was to introduce a resolution today asking that more information should be obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey, which made an investigation some years ago.

It seems to me that the hope of success lies now in, the fact of the split in San Francisco and in getting the right information from San Joaquin and to put all this before the Committee on Public Lands.

I hope this may be of assistance and if I can be of any help in any way please call upon me

Yours sincerely

Shelby S. Elliott
Mrs. Foster Elliott
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