

March 16, 08.

Prof. F. H. Newell,
Director of Reclamation Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

You ask our association to furnish you with "list of lands which are offered for sale on the Salt River project, together with statement of prices asked or value of the lands", also you ask for advice, "as to the practicability of keeping us informed from week to week of changes in such list of lands sold and of other lands offered for sale".

In this Valley, we have probably 200,000 acres of land, to be irrigated from the reservoir, of which more than 100,000 acres are today for sale, at prices ranging from \$40.00 to \$400.00 per acre, though much of it was never listed.

When I tell you that one Phoenix real estate firm last month did over \$50,000.00 business, and already this month have done as much business as the whole of February, you can understand that something is doing here; and other real estate men here and in Mesa report their business as excellent, never better. However, there is no boom, no excitement and everything is quiet.

To keep track of these changes from week to week, would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. If we should attempt to advise you by mail, even before our letter could reach

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Washington, our advices would frequently mislead you or be entirely worthless, because changes are so rapid, negotiations are constantly on the way. Unrecorded deals and sales are of frequent occurrence, all of which would vitiate the record you would keep in Washington.

The only way in which it would be of any value whatever, would be daily telegraphic advices, in itself an impracticable plan. In either case, an extra clerk would be required at this end to collate and prepare for you. Moreover, such records in your office "available for examination by persons who come here and to form a basis for replies", would be wholly unreliable.

I believe, your Mr. Stannard, Engineer in Mr. Hill's office, has at hand an immense amount of data, relating to "acreage irrigated", "acreage irrigable", "crops raised", "soil", "buildings", "improvements", etc., etc., in compiling which, he has spent much time and all of which would of course, be available for your use; if this plan suggested by you in letter now before me, was considered practical, ^{his data would save much labor.} To us it does not appeal as practical, and we see no way in which it could be made of real value to any one.

Yours very truly,