

Jan. 27, 1909

Governor Joseph H. Kibbey,  
New Willard Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Taggart will write you today regarding your opinion on the Highland Canal purchase, which you promised him before you went to Washington.

There is a bill introduced into Congress taking from the Secretary of the Interior the expenditure of the National Irrigation fund before same has been approved by Congress. The Phoenix Gazette has taken the matter up, intimating that the local Water Users Association ought to get busy. I refer the matter to you for such attention as it may demand.

In a letter from C. J. Blanchard of the Reclamation Service, he declares "that the real estate boom in the Salt River Valley has assumed such proportions and the land values have increased to such an extent that many would-be settlers are being turned away. With land prices soaring as they are in the valley, I have hesitated about directing anyone to that section of the country. Present land owners cannot claim that they are in any sense responsible for this big increase in values, and if they put their prices too high it is quite probable that large areas will remain unsettled until the time comes for the Water Users Association to put it on the market, and this would be followed by a great outcry on the part of land owners."

I cannot agree with Blanchard on this declaration. I do not believe that there has been a "real estate boom in the valley". The actual intrinsic value of our lands, in my judgment, is above \$200 an acre. Of course I agree with him in the general proposition as to the danger of getting land

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values too high.

Now will you see him and Mr. Newell and discuss this matter with them?

Wishing you the largest success with your labors at Washington, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*B. A. Fowler*