

Extravaganco—Huh!

TAKE TROUBLES TO CITY DADS.

THREE AQUEDUCT INVESTIGATORS PROTEST SOME.

Object to Publication of Ten Thousand Copies of Report by Two Members of Original Board Telling What They Found—An Engineer on the Fence.

The Aqueduct Investigation Board, by the three members remaining after Edward Johnson and E. S. Cobb declared their inability to conscientiously retain their seats, has prepared a resolution of protest against the publication of 10,000 copies of the Johnson-Cobb report, which differs radically from the report Chairman Warner and his associates want to make.

The resolution, which is sent to every member of the City Council, recites that the Cobb and Johnson report reflects only the individual opinion and judgment of these men, and "is not a summary of the testimony of those intimately associated with the conduct and management of the enterprise." And further that the report should "include the sworn testimony of said Edward Johnson and E. S. Cobb given before this board."

Farther along in this protest the belief is expressed that the publication of the Johnson-Cobb report would be "an unjustifiable waste of the city's money."

The report which is stirring the tempest in the teapot of the investigators was made by Johnson and Cobb after months of careful study of the aqueduct situation as members of the first board and they find that the administration and construction of the big ditch has reached, in all departments, a high plane of efficiency, and that the various charges brought against the men behind the big project and against the work itself are entirely without foundation.

Attached to the protesting resolution is the copy of a letter said to be from F. C. Finkle, a consulting engineer, invited by the board to advise with its engineer, Shaffer, in the preparation of a hydrographic report covering the Los Angeles River and the Owens River watersheds.

Finkle declines the honor on the ground that he has already reached "definite conclusions which do not agree with the position taken by the engineers of the Los Angeles Aqueduct." He adds: "If I were to serve you in the preparation of a report, those who are using the Los Angeles Aqueduct as a political asset or for the purpose of furthering their private interests, and who have the support of a majority of the press in the city, will seize upon this as a pretext to divert attention from the report and to create a personal discussion centering around myself."

Finkle is opposed to the aqueduct construction and his refusal to collaborate with the investigators is said to have been received with considerable disappointment at the office of the board in the Merchants' Trust building.