



THE STATE OF UTAH

OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER

SALT LAKE CITY

February 3, 1938

T. H. HUMPHERYS
STATE ENGINEER

Memorandum for Office Study only, by T. H. Humpherys

The Commissioners of Carbon county, consisting of Fahring, Peterson and Engle, together with several citizens, conferred with the State Engineer today and requested that the co-operative investigation now under way on the Price river, involving (a) the Scofield dam, (b) the Gooseberry dam and (c) the Spanish Fork diversion canal, be extended to include the feasibility and cost of a canal to irrigate Clark's Valley located in Ts. 14 and 15 S., Rs. 12 and 13 E. After making the request Mr. Fahring asked Mr. Engle to take over the discussion, who said that according to the records the Price River Water Conservation District now held title under its Applications to all the water in Fish creek, but according to the reports made by the Resettlement Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation and other Federal agencies, the irrigation of 15,000 acres of ground under the canal system now cultivated, would not afford justification for claiming all of the water provided in their Applications, but that they had until 1940 in which to put this water to beneficial use and for the purpose of saving said water to Carbon county and to furnish work for the unemployed, the request referred to was made. In discussing the matter further it developed that the County had fallen heir to approximately 1200 acres in Clark's Valley through tax sale and that a suit was pending which has for its purpose the forcing of the sale of said lands to the highest bidder in accordance with what is claimed by the plaintiff as a requirement of the law, and that such action, if carried out voluntarily or by the court action referred to, would net the County nothing and result only in making disposition of the land for perhaps \$1.50 per acre to sheep men and thus put it beyond the possibility of ever becoming irrigated and made more valuable.

As a conclusion of the statement made by the Commissioners, Mr. Engle said that they had in view the saving of Fish creek water for Carbon county and their move in this matter would prove that fact; but if and when the investigation of Clark's Valley were made and it disclosed that the project were infeasible, they very much preferred that Sanpete or the Spanish Fork river people have the water than to have it waste to the Colorado river and go to the lower users, as it is now doing.

Mr. Fahring said that the Commission visited the Scofield dam work yesterday, commended its doing, testified to the thoroughness and rapidity with which the work was being carried on and stated, moreover, in their opinion that it was very necessary to be done and since now the Commission had contributed \$3500 to carry on the work, he hoped the State officials would attempt to keep the Commissioners out of jail since there was every reason to believe that their act in this matter was illegal.

