

NEARING THE GOAL.

Numerous inquiries have been heard of late regarding the progress of the Bear Valley Mutual Water company, with an intimation, in some quarters, that delay has foreboded failure. The call for the first annual meeting of this company, which was issued a few days ago, was sufficient answer to those who have kept informed upon the details of this movement. And THE CITROGRAPH now has the pleasure of announcing to all that the second great step towards the success of this long-desired corporation has been taken and that the requisite number of subscriptions to its stock to make all the subscriptions binding has been secured. In other words, for the first time in the history of Redlands, practically all of the water users of this city and its environs have agreed upon a plan to abolish the troublesome and expensive system of diverse water interests and to join all interests in one great corporation which shall be controlled by the water users themselves. We do not hesitate to say that this is the most important movement in which the people of Redlands have ever united, one that is full of promise for the future of the city.

The first board of directors, which is, in a sense, a temporary board, and its secretary, F. E. Hotchkiss, in particular, have done quiet, persistent and effective work during the past summer. Upon the basis of re-organization the water now in use permits of the issuance of 83,487 shares of stock in the new corporation. Of these, 70,247 shares have been subscribed up to the present time. Two corporations and two individuals, controlling in all 10,895 shares, have so far failed to subscribe, for the reason that they have asked concessions. This leaves only 2345 shares unaccounted for today. This, when the difficulties are considered, is a most creditable showing. It is altogether probable that the shares above mentioned which have not been subscribed will eventually be subscribed. But whether they are or not, more than the requisite 70,000 have now been secured, within the time limit fixed, and the second great step in re-organization has been accomplished.

The proposition will now be passed along to the Cleveland Trust company, representing the holders of the bonds, which are an indebtedness of the Bear Valley Irrigation company, and other creditors of the company. This corporation, for the first time in ten years, now has an opportunity to relieve itself of a burden of securities that have never paid interest, that are clouded by litigation and that can never be profitable under existing conditions. If this company meets this question in a spirit of fairness and justice, and we have every reason to believe that it will, it can retire from a losing contest with honor, and can leave the field open for the development of a system of irrigation founded upon prudence and equity rather than upon speculation and extravagance, the follies that wrecked the original Bear Valley Irrigation company.

This will be the third step in consummating this great plan. The rest will be easy. There will be no trouble in carrying out the remaining carefully prepared details of the plan of incorporation. Nor in developing an increased supply of water.

When this has, at last, been done, Redlands—no matter how niggardly of rain the skies may be—will never face another water famine, with water at four dollars an inch and little to be had even at that price. In times of plenty there will be oceans of water; in times of drouth there will be water enough for all at a price which, compared with years within the bitter memory of all, will be merely nominal. What this means no one can fully realize who has not watched all the phases in the growth of a new town where the desert has been transformed into a garden.

For years THE CITROGRAPH has been consistently, earnestly and constantly working for this priceless boon to Redlands, a thing so simple when realized, so almost impossible of realization, the possibility for every user of water to have a voice in its control, an equal opportunity with all other users of water, measured by his needs, and limited by his capacity for profitable use and not by the grasping greed of a corporation. So complex was the problem, so conflicting were the interests involved that the most ardent supporters of the idea were the most skeptical of its taking form, becoming a fact. A problem under favoring conditions, it was rendered more intricate by the disappointments of the past, discouraging to all, and by the prospect of an interminable unwinding of the entanglements of the law. That masterful series of articles which we published two years ago, reviewing the whole matter in all its phases, historical, legal and practical, called the attention of those among us who can think to the imperative necessity of immediate action, and pointed the way by outlining in substance the plan which has actually been put into operation. But neither we nor our friends expected to see it so near the end within the time that is now here.

Once more we see that nothing is impossible to the enthusiast, to the man who foresees and plans. For ten years we have given our time, our hopes and our affections to the up-building upon these plains of a community fairer and greater than was dreamed of by those who laid its foundations. We have been scoffed and derided, but our predictions have come true.

We shall have one other prediction to make when the Bear Valley Mutual Water company takes actual possession of its rights and commences to administer the irrigation interests of this valley. Until then we shall reserve a little of our enthusiasm lest we shock the chronic unbeliever. But we congratulate ourselves today, and we congratulate Redlands upon the good sense of her citizens, upon the public spirit that recognizes opportunity and puts away the impulses of self-interest for the common good which is the greatest good to each, and upon the prospect of a future brighter even than the brilliant past.