

Dec. 8, 1926

Mr. Elwood Mead
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Mead:

I am just back from Italy where I spent my summer reporting on what I found doing there, and am already into another piece of work, that touches on your field.

The immediate thing I want is some detailed information about the speculative enterprises in irrigation canals, which took place between 1880 and 1890. The Census Report of 1900 in its summary of the progress of irrigation in the West speaks of these. What I would like to get would be a circular or two, offering stocks or bonds, and, if possible, to trace the fate of some particular enterprise. Have you in your files any definite material on this that I could see the next time I am in Washington? Or could you refer me to anything that goes over that period?

I have on my desk the copy of the address that you made at Easton on July 11, but I have been so occupied with imperative things that I have not had time to read it carefully. I am flattered that you quoted from my McCall article.

Sincerely yours