

# FLETCHER TAKES ISSUE WITH SAVAGE ON HODGES DAM SAFETY

## WATER COMPANY SAYS STRUCTURE STILL IS SAFE

Asserts Engineer Shows  
Prejudice In Report On  
Multiple Arch

YESTERDAY—H. N. Savage, city hydraulic engineer, said:

"Hodges dam is unsafe, and should be either rebuilt or replaced."

TODAY—Col. Ed Fletcher, president of the mutual water company that built the dam said:

"It is NOT unsafe!"

Thus the old controversy on the subject, "which is better, multiple arch or gravity arch dams?" bobs up again.

"The statement of Mr. Savage that Lake Hodges dam is unsafe is ridiculous," the colonel declared today.

"Mr. Savage has a personal prejudice against all multiple arch dams as evidenced by his statements in the San Diego papers several years ago.

"Mr. Savage has never built a multiple arch dam. He pins his faith to gravity arch principle. The St. Francis dam was a gravity arch.

### CITES DAM COSTS

"Savage built Otay dam, a gravity arch, at a cost of \$1,000,000; Barrett dam, a gravity arch, at a cost of \$1,750,000. We built Lake Hodges dam at a cost of less than \$400,000. It has stood the test.

"If Mr. Savage and the city of San Diego want to throw away \$150,000 to reenforce the buttresses, this can be done, but it is wholly unnecessary.

"It is unfortunate, but most of the engineers of the old school who have had their life experience in gravity dams are naturally suspicious of any new principle. The multiple arch is beyond the experimental stage."

Hodges dam was approved and built under the personal supervision of the state engineer, W. S. McClure, Fletcher says, and has since been declared safe by Rudolph W. Van Norden of San Francisco, "considered the greatest authority in the country on multiple arch dams."

### REPLACE OR REBUILD

Savage yesterday recommended to the city council that as a safety precaution and for the additional purpose of developing an increased city water supply of 15,000,000 gallons daily, Hodges dam either be replaced or rebuilt.

The safety of the structure, he pointed out in his letter on the subject, was called in question by a special board of examining engineers, who recommended an analysis of all the stresses, which Savage had made.

"I have discussed the safety of the dam with many engineers, many of whom are ranking international authorities," Savage reported to the council, "and not one has expressed to me the belief that the Hodges dam is a safe and dependable structure."

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