

(COPY)

Blythe, California.

August 6, 1917

Federal Farm Loan Board,

Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Back in '98 I locked the door of the little country school in Illinois and went to the county seat to enlist; nothing doing. Didn't pass. Leter the wife and I broke into the U. S. reclamation service at Laguna Dam, Arizona, and stayed with the colors till the job was done. For the past six years we have been pioneering in this, the Palo Verde Valley of the Colorado River Country. This carving a home out of the wilderness is a man's size job, but the history of America is the story of the pioneers. This spring when the war broke out we ran up Old Glory and I climbed out that much earlier offer Mister Mule, Answering the President's call we tore down some more wilderness and cotton and corn now grow where the side winder and coyote held forth. Doubled our acreage, also spent our last cent. I organized a Farm Loan Association basing my assertions on my previous government experience. I assured the "boys" that Uncle Sam would be with us when he was ready. We dont want something for nothing. We have the land. But in the language of the frontier man we want to know what in blazes is the matter with Berkeley! Why are they holding up the coin? Why are we kept from doing out bit? This week our young men will be off to the training camps. Why is the old timer with the hoe out of the game, when Uncle Sam is loaning out his money in other states. We are right there with both feet when it comes to hustling for ourselves, but that doesn't answer "The Call." We can get moeny at 10 and 12%, a little just enough to pinch along on but not enough to do any real business with. We would like to see a government inspector come in here and take a look at us anyhow. Why couldn't he come along with the draft board and take a look or appoint one of the draft mentto look around and save the extra expence.

We cant get any answer from Berkeley, so are writing you,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Robert E. Hohnke.



August 13, 1917

Mr. Robert E. Hohnke,  
Blythe, California

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your favor of the 6th instant, I brought the same to the attention of the Members of the Board who at this time are present in the city, and was directed to say to you, that it is much to be regretted that it has been impossible to supply associations with funds as rapidly as desired not for lack of funds, but because the Farm Loan Act must be administered in accordance with its provisions, and it very wisely provides certain forms and restrictions which are necessary for the permanent installation of a great plan which necessarily at the beginning involves some delay.

The Bank at Berkeley has been overwhelmed with applications for loans; these applications have to be examined, the land has to be appraised, the titles to the land must be looked into, and various details required by the law have to be followed.

You can rest assured that everything is being done that can be done consistent with the law by the Farm Loan Board to facilitate the beneficial results of the Farm Loan Act.

I am sending your letter to the Berkeley Bank asking them to give prompt ~~prompt~~ attention thereto, for I cannot understand the last paragraph in which you say that you are unable to get any answer from them.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. W. Flannagan

(W. W. Flannagan)  
Secretary, Farm Loan Board.

F:MEC