

The matter of classification of irrigation districts was taken up by the Board of Directors of the Association at a meeting held in Ephrata on Sept. 16, 1950. Objective of classification was to permit those districts with capable personnel, and who desired, to handle all their own accounts, make their own collections and disbursements and operate independently of the County Treasurer and County Auditor.

Such a change in operation would have to be authorized by a change in the irrigation code by the State Legislature and would then be optional with the various irrigation districts upon meeting certain requirements as specified by the Department of Municipal Corporations.

The Board of Directors of the State Ass'n of Irrigation Districts, at the Ephrata meeting, voted to table the matter of classification pending an examination of the Irrigation Code to see if a few legislative changes, or amendments, could not be made that would clarify the duties of county officials and irrigation officials with respect to collections and disbursements and erase any friction now existing between the two. Mr. Cunningham, as chairman of the Legislative Committee, was requested to study the matter and make recommendations.

As a summation of the Ephrata meeting the writer does not feel that the Board was against classification. It undoubtedly possesses considerable merit. The writer does feel that friction in some counties between irrigation officials and county officials should be a matter for judicial clarification with a determination of just what are the duties of the two sets of officials. The matter of classification should be kept a living issue for other reasons than jurisdictional friction. I believe the first step toward classification should be a determination, probably by the Division of Municipal Corporations under the advice of Earle Buzzell or other qualified individual in collaboration with a committee from the State Association, of just what requirements would have to be met for first class rating. These requirements could then be studied as a basis for final determination of the need and desirability of classification.

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