

# FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

"Whenever we, as citizens of Arizona, fail to unite in some movement to aid in the progress and future welfare of the state, we are merely building another stone wall across the road to prosperity which, unfortunately, seldom stops anyone but ourselves.

"Arizona, in the past, has lost much because her citizens refused to unite behind those who were trying to accomplish progress. In this, we are faced with the stern reality, that now is the time to get our rights, but we won't get them if we engage over petty bickerings and pull at cross purposes.

"If we do, that great inland empire, of which we dream about along the Colorado river, will still remain a mirage in the desert."

That was written of Arizona and concerns its fight against Parker dam construction. It MIGHT have been written of Las Vegas and our aspirations to become the capital of the inland southwest. It is all too true when applied to realization of that dream. We HAVE the potentialities of a Phoenix or Salt Lake. Whether we attain them, depends largely on ourselves and our alertness in protecting our rights against ALL aggression.

Arizona, apparently, is having trouble holding the ground she gained in the recent supreme court decision. And her trouble is not so much from the outside, as from the inside, where petty bickerings, jealousies, and personal ambitions

transcend the very welfare and development of the state in the minds of many in a position to stay the hand of progress.

It is to be hoped that we, as a community, will be able to profit by the experiences of others, as we come to face our big moment not so far away. Sometimes I wonder whether or not, thru the lack of a concerted, enlightened and intelligent effort, we aren't drifting gradually into the hands of our commercial enemies who would destroy our development that they themselves might benefit.

We're about to begin a game where the stakes are measured in millions of dollars, instead of the hundreds or thousands we have been playing for, and we must play cautiously and intelligently if we are to win out and build here the industrial empire we can achieve. Others would like those industries and the development and payroll that goes along. And those others have unlimited financial resources to pit against our enthusiasm and natural advantages.

Only thru a united community, working together, can we hope to meet the situation. Unless we realize THIS basic necessity of preparedness, OUR great inland empire of which we long have dreamed along the Colorado river in Nevada, will also "still remain a mirage in the desert." I wonder if we'll realize this before it's too late?