

# JESSE W. CARTER AND CALIFORNIA WATER LAW:

*Guns, Dynamite, and Farmers, 1918-1939*

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As a practicing attorney before he was appointed to the California Supreme Court in 1939, Jesse W. Carter was known for his impassioned and forceful representation of farming and ranching clients involved in water conflicts with large corporations — particularly hydroelectric power companies. Later, as a state supreme court justice until his death in 1959, Carter gained further attention (as well as the nickname, “The Great Dissenter”) for his vigorous opposing judicial opinions.<sup>1</sup> However spirited his courtroom arguments or dissents may have been,

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