

WHAT A SALTON SEA COULD DO FOR ALL

OUR GREAT SOUTHWEST LAND.

Form New Puget Sound as Large as
Lake Ontario With Ocean Connec-
tion, Says O. E. Cromwell.

[Albuquerque Citizen.]

Atlantic City, N. J. Jan. 21.—A bill has been reported to the senate from the committee on arid lands authorizing the expenditure of \$2,000,000 for the confinement of the Colorado river within its banks, and prevent its overflow into the Salton basin, and thus save from inundation the arable lands in the Imperial Valley.

While at first sight this seems a most praiseworthy object, and no doubt has so appeared to the President, and many others, very few seem to have given any thought to the other side of this question, and the great benefits that have ensued and will continue to ensue, should the Colorado river be allowed to continue to fill this basin to the sea level and then cut a connection for itself to the Gulf of California. There are a few exceptions to the indifferent majority, notably Mr. Bird, of THE NOGALES OASIS, who has in his paper presented his view of the matter. Briefly stated, this would give a large area of navigable water, and if the connection to the Gulf of California were deepened sufficiently to permit navigation by sea-going craft, the United States would then have upon its southwestern border a seaport or seaports which it failed to get by the Gadsden treaty, and the payment of \$15,000,000. This was the main object of the Gadsden purchase, but through some error the boundary line passed about thirty miles to the north of the head of the gulf. If a port on the Gulf of California was worth \$15,000,000 in 1853, what would such a port be worth now?

If the Colorado continues to flow into, and enlarge the Salton sea, it will bring into existence a body of water as large as Lake Ontario, and about 270 feet deep. This would form another Puget Sound in the southwest, rivaling that great body of water in the northwest, and upon its shores would grow great cities like Seattle and Tacoma, and there would be the termini of several trans-continental railroads. Would not one such city make ample amends for the loss of the Imperial Valley?

Already 450 square miles of the bed of the Salton basin has been covered by the waters of the Colorado to a depth of sixty feet, and this area affords sufficient evaporating surface in that dry and thirsty climate to greatly modify the aridity of New Mexico. I have lived in that territory, and been familiar with its climate for about thirty years, and in all that time I have never known so great a rainfall as has prevailed in New Mexico for the past three years; I have known periods of several months' duration, during which there has been a very satisfactory

amount of precipitation, but never lasting as long as three years. The present rains began at about the time when the waters from the overflow presented a sufficiently large surface to cause a great deal of evaporation, and are co-existent with the spreading area of the Salton sea.

I believe this is no mere coincidence. It is, of course, impossible to trace the evaporation of an atom of water from the surface of the Salton sea, and follow it until it falls as rain upon the arid plains of New Mexico, but I am sure the rainfall will grow less, and finally cease altogether if the overflow of the Colorado river was stopped, and the Salton sea allowed to dry up. If the average rainfall of the past few years is permitted to continue, the productive value of New Mexico and Arizona would be many times greater every year than the value of the improvements on all the farms that would be destroyed by the overflow.

During the past year there has been a tremendous influx of new settlers into New Mexico. The increase is estimated by some newspapers to have been 90,000, or a third of the previous population. This may be an overestimate, but presuming the increase was no more than 50,000, these new people are almost without exception English-speaking natives of the United States. They have been tempted hither by the improved climatic conditions, and are beginning to cultivate the soil without irrigation. With the so-called dry farming method, there is hardly any place in New Mexico where good crops cannot be raised, and the present rainfall is sure to increase with the increasing surface of the Salton sea. If the present amount of precipitation can be maintained, and possibly increased, the material benefit to this territory at large would be beyond computation, and the same may be said of Arizona.

Doubtless the next season will see greatly increased immigration. Will it not be a great misfortune to destroy the livelihood of this large and increasing population by stopping the formation of this inland sea, and thus cutting off the source of rainfall?

Would it not be better for the general government to use the appropriation asked for to stop the overflow of the Colorado river, in reimbursing the people of the Imperial Valley for their losses, and thus conserve the greatest good of the greatest number?

O. E. CROMWELL.

Flowers Thieving.

Someone is fixing to beautify his premises, and to that end is stealing choice and rare plants and bushes from the grounds of others. One night last week the grounds of Mr. Charles L. Fowler were robbed of about half of a row of hedge plants Mr. Fowler had set out, and there were taken some choice rose bushes upon which Mrs. Fowler set great store. Other like thefts are reported.

IS PROMISING DISTRICT.

That is Verdict of Board of Trade Directors in Regard to Wrightson District, Misrepresented by Tucson Publication.

The most interesting subject discussed at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nogales and Santa Cruz County Board of Trade Tuesday night was the "knocking" of the Wrightson mining district in this county by the Miner and Stockman, a Tucson publication. Members of the Board of Trade who are personally acquainted with the Wrightson district gave sufficient information to the Board to show that the Miner and Stockman made many statements that were untrue in the articles referred to, and that there are many promising prospects in the district. They asserted that there is considerable development work going on in the district and that thousands of dollars have been spent on properties there by men who have personal knowledge of the outlook—knowledge upon which they base their convictions that the Wrightson district will some day have a number of rich, producing mines.

The outcome of the discussion was the authorizing of the president of the Board to name a committee of three to draw up resolutions in regard to the statements of the Miner and Stockman. President Titcomb named Messrs. H. M. Chapman, W. H. Barnett and Patt R. Sullivan. The resolutions as first presented by the committee were ordered changed by the Board, by the striking out of passages which the Board considered irrelevant to the subject under discussion and after being changed were again submitted to the Board by Messrs. Chapman and Barnett. On the second presentation they were adopted, reading as follows:

WHEREAS, It has been called to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Nogales and Santa Cruz County Board of Trade, that articles derogatory to the Wrightson mining district in Santa Cruz County have been published in the Miner and Stockman of Tucson; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Nogales and Santa Cruz County Board of Trade and members of the Board of Directors, who have personal knowledge of the Wrightson district have stated before the Board that many of the statements made in the articles mentioned and which appeared in recent issues of the Miner and Stockman are untrue and harmful to the said Wrightson mining district, and to Santa Cruz County and the southwest; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the publisher of the Miner and Stockman is by this Board of Directors censured for the publication of articles misrepresenting that district.

Hon. Bo. J. Whiteside, Santa Cruz County's representative in the Territorial Assembly, having forwarded to the Board of Trade copies of the different bills introduced into the Assembly and the Territorial Council, with the request that the Board examine them and inform him in regard to any bills which might be considered especially meritorious, and particularly those that might be beneficial to this section of the

Territory, the president was authorized to appoint a committee of three to examine the bills submitted and report to the Board Thursday night. Messrs. W. H. Barnett, H. M. Chapman and Patt R. Sullivan were named as members of the committee.

It being reported to the Board that Director H. S. Stewart of Duquesne desired to bring certain matters before the body for consideration, and that gentleman being unable to come to Nogales Tuesday night, the meeting was adjourned till Thursday evening.

Stock Market.

Kansas City, Feb. 1, 1906.—The cattle supply this week aggregates 47,700, a slight increase over last week, and has been composed mainly of fed steers. There was a heavy run Tuesday, with a decline of 5 to 15 cents on that day, but on all other days, the market has been stronger, and prices are a shade higher for the week on steers, while cows are 15 to 25 cents higher than a week ago. Calves are a quarter lower than a week ago. Country demand has been strong, and prices are a little higher than a week ago on stockers and feeders. Some Colorado stockers sold at \$4.25 to \$4.35, pantandle stockers at \$3.75 to \$4.45, none of these considered extra good, as top stockers have sold this week at \$4.60, and fair to good feeders up to \$4.80, a few lots of choice black feeders weighing 1100 lb at \$5.00 to \$5.25. Bulk of fed steers set at \$4.75 to \$5.75, top for the week \$7.50, cows \$3.00 to \$4.75, heifers \$3.55 to \$5.00, canners \$2.15 to \$2.75, bulls \$2.75 to \$4.25. Total cattle receipts increased 16,000 head over last January the first month this year, making a new record for January, and that the market closed the month strong indicates the greatness of the demand. Local packing amounted to 131,000 cattle and calves during the month, 10,000 head more than same month last year.

Receipts of sheep and lambs have been liberal this week at 38,000 head, composed mainly of fed westerns from Colorado feed lots. The market has been steady on good stuff, but has shaded downwards on other grades. Light lambs sold lower middle of the week, but are 10 to 15 higher today. Bulk of lambs have been of good quality, ranging in price from \$7.30 to \$7.65, a few light lambs at \$6.65 to \$7.10. Yearlings have been scarce, selling at \$6.45 to \$6.70, wethers \$5.40 to \$5.75, ewes \$4.65 to \$5.15. Northern Colorado ewes at \$5.00 to \$5.10.

J. A. RICKART,

L. S. Correspondent.

Death of Mrs. Balderas.

Mr. Balderas, the popular Nogales band master, was summoned to Tucson last Sunday by the sad intelligence of his mother's death, who had just passed away in that city. The gentleman has the heartfelt sympathy of a large circle of friends at Nogales in his bereavement.