

## COLONIZING IMPERIAL SETTLEMENTS

### COMMENTS OF THE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOOD WORK

Never before in the history of the United States has there been such a vigorous movement of the people to take possession of a reclaimed desert as that now being witnessed as the people from all parts of the country, and especially from all parts of Southern California, are moving with their household goods and gods, to take possession of the land under the Imperial Canal system.

Never before in the history of the country has the press taken such a deep interest in the migratory movements of the people as that now shown by the papers of Southern California.

The public at large have but a slight conception of work being done to annex this large slice of arid America to the civilization of the world.

One year ago there was absolutely nothing on the great Colorado Delta except a few surveying camps, and they were compelled to haul water for subsistence for miles.

Today there is more water running into the Imperial Settlements from the Colorado River, through the Imperial Canal system, than there is in use in all the other irrigation systems of Southern California, and it is estimated that some of this water will be used to irrigate 50,000 acres during the coming season.

Today the town of Imperial is becoming well established. There is now in the town a hotel, a printing office, in which the Imperial Press and Farmer is printed, a store and post-office, a blacksmith shop, and a church in which services are held every Sunday, together with a parsonage, in which the minister-in-charge and his family live.

In addition to this, an application has been made for a charter for the First National Bank of Imperial, and it is proposed to have this bank open for business by the first of the year.

It is in connection with this work that the press of the country have, from time to time, noted the progress of work and the way in which the people are flocking into this new country.

Following are a few of the clippings from exchanges which will be of interest to our readers:

#### Abundance of Water.

T. P. Banta is in town from Imperial, California. He reports that section booming, and that the water rates have jumped from \$12 to \$15 per acre, with a prospect that they will go to twenty dollars before Christmas. There is an abundance of water and a great deal of land is being brought under irrigation.—Mesa (Arizona) Free Press.

#### To Rival Pomona.

While the Colorado River is being utilized, out on the desert, for irrigation purposes, and the creation of horticultural and agricultural settlements that may be expected, before many years, to rival Pomona, and Ontario, and Santa Ana, and other flourishing communities of Southern California, this is not the only use to which the noble stream—the only river of any consequence in the southwestern corner of the United States—may be put.—Los Angeles Daily Times.

#### Wishes for Success.

On Tuesday night of last week the neighbors of Fern Camp and Mignonette Circle gave a surprise to Neighbor Huntington Mc Kusick, who was about to start for his new field of labor on the Imperial lands. The neighbors found him about to retire for the night, in spite of Mrs. McKusick's attempts to detain him at Carum, and the surprise was complete. The house full present engaged in games, verbal and dextrous participating, just before their departure, in such refreshments as only the rustic craft of the order can devise. Hearty good wishes for the success of the venture of the host sent their echoes through the midnight air as the guests departed. The evening will

be most pleasantly remembered.—Norwalk Call.

#### Navigating Colorado River.

The opening of Southeastern California to direct communication with the sea means much to that region. The chartering of a new steamboat line to ply between Guaymas and Yuma, on the Colorado River, opens up the latter city from the arid inland desert to the outside world by water communication and when the Nicaragua canal is completed great things may be looked for from Yuma.—Los Angeles Real Estate News.

#### Smile with Fruits of Industry.

The Colorado Desert is receiving the baptism of irrigation through the Imperial canals, and next year it will be so good as to smile with the fruits of industry.—Pasadena Daily News.

#### A Citrus Nursery.

Imperial and her alfalfa, melons and vegetables are not to be the only products. A citrus nursery has been started by a party from Los Angeles and ere long the lemon and orange will be in evidence.—San Diego Union.

#### A Large Farm.

Lawyer Lamont Tyner has procured 960 acres of land in the Imperial colony and will move down to that growing section. There will be a great amount of farming done in that section this season.—Pasadena Daily News.



SEVEN WEEKS' GROWTH OF SORGHUM. PLANTED ABOUT THE FIRST OF JULY, 1901, NEAR CALEXICO, UNDER THE IMPERIAL CANAL SYSTEM. SORGHUM 9 FEET HIGH WHEN PHOTO WAS TAKEN.

#### Settlers from Highlands.

Over 3000 acres of land have been taken up in the Imperial colonies by Highland people.—Redlands Citigraph.

#### Land at Indio.

C. O. Carlson of this city, recently patented 160 acres of desert land at Indio. A few days ago he sold 80 acres of the tract for \$3000.—Los Angeles Herald.

#### Santa Barbarians.

Six wagons, 26 horses and about 10 people passed through the valley yesterday from Santa Barbara county on their way to Imperial. The party went by way of Hemet, Sage and Warner's ranch.—Hemet News.

#### San Diegans Going.

Mr. Hill and Mr. Steinmeyer of Jamul, and Mr. Parsons of El Cajon, left on the 20th for the new town of Imperial, on the desert. One of Mr. Hill's horses took sick at Jacumba and he returned home, the others went on to Imperial.—San Diego News.

#### The Coming Country.

O. N. Frambes returned Saturday from the Imperial country, and yesterday went to Los Angeles to file on forty acres he picked out while there. Mr. Frambes believes that section to be the coming country.—Santa Ana Blade.

#### Going Overland.

D. Pyle and son George, and Reg Donovan started for the Imperial section last week via Escondido and Julian. They expect to stay three or four months.—Escondido Times.

#### Ladies Investing.

Mrs. E. J. Burleigh returned last week from Imperial, where she possessed herself of 120 acres of the public domain and the necessary water to irrigate it.—Colton News.

#### The Imperial Fever.

J. D. Langford is the latest victim of Imperial fever. He left for that much-advertised section Tuesday afternoon. P. F. Coy returned Tuesday from Imperial, where he secured 320 acres of land, only one and a half miles from the town of Imperial.—Highland Citrus Belt.

#### Party from Otay.

A party from Otay leaves this week to view the land round Imperial, with the view of making filings on government land, if the prospects please them; Wyman Downs, Fred Downs and George Davis, and others from Chula Vista, will comprise the party.—San Diego News.

#### Delighted.

S. B. Brown of Brown Brothers, San Bernardino, agents of the Imperial Land Company, was out to the new colony last week with a party of intending settlers, who were all delighted with what they saw of this new country.—Colton News.

#### A Large Ranch.

David Crawford has returned from Imperial (Colorado desert) where he and brothers have located 7000 acres of land.—Pomona Daily Times.

#### Riversiders Going.

I. W. Gleason will start on another journey to Imperial today. Upon his return from Los Angeles last night he reported that the following gentlemen

#### Riverside Settlers.

The sales of land under the Imperial system, made by I. W. Gleason, who returned from Los Angeles on Tuesday, after locating a party, amounted to 4095 acres for the month of September. He has now made arrangements to carry on the good work through the present month, and will soon start out with another party of home-seekers for that favored land.—Riverside Enterprise.

#### Give Baby a Town Lot.

One of the first buildings erected in Imperial town site when the Colorado desert was started to be reclaimed, was that of the Imperial Press, by Editor Reed. Now that the desert is giving way to civilization and to boom and to bloom, the first white baby born in that section is that of the editor's wife, last week. As pioneers of a new civilization and promoters of progress, the editor should be given first place.—Pasadena News.

#### Furnishing Meat Supply.

Mrs. Hector White of Phoenix, Ariz., who has been spending the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. English, went to Redlands this morning to visit with her sister for a few days before returning to her home. Mr. White will join her at Redlands in a few days and on reaching Phoenix they will move their effects to Imperial City, where Mr. White recently took up 320 acres of land. He has secured a contract for furnishing employees of the Imperial Canal Company with meat.—Santa Ana Blade.

#### All Took Land.

A. W. Wolford, J. R. Stevenson, Henry Nulton and G. W. Donley, all of Escondido, drove into San Diego yesterday from Imperial, where they have been for ten days, looking at the land and water, both of which they report having seen in abundance. They were so well pleased with the prospects that each of them secured from one hundred and sixty to three hundred and twenty acres of land, and bought \$4000 worth of water rights. They left Escondido a fairly good looking party but those who saw them on their arrival in San Diego, say they had greatly changed in appearance. To say that these gentlemen are delighted with their new possessions, is putting it mildly.—San Diego Union.

#### Hog Weed Not Pig Weed.

W. S. Corwin and Pierce Coy returned from Imperial last Friday. They bring back almost incredible tales of the richness of that country. Mr. Corwin, for instance, vouches for the truth of having seen with his own eye a pig-weed, grown since June, that measured eight inches in diameter at the butt and stood thirteen feet high. Now, how's that for high? No one doubts that Mr. Corwin saw such a weed, and that its prodigious growth is an indication of the surpassing fertility of this garden spot. The future of this large body of land and its susceptibility of irrigation with the waters of the Colorado is a problem soon to be solved by a vast number of capitalists and home seekers who are rushing there.—Colton News.

#### Very Enthusiastic.

J. H. McKim was home from Imperial this week, and is very enthusiastic over the prospects there, as evidenced by the fact that he and his wife have filed on 640 acres and taken 80 acres with script, making a total of 720 acres. Mr. McKim is more enthusiastic every time he makes a trip to Imperial, and says he has it from a good source that railroad surveyors will begin on a line south from Flowing Wells within a few days. The crop yields from seed sown in July are the most marvelous we have ever heard of. Millet sown at that time yielded 3½ tons per acre, and sorghum over ten tons of cured feed. The land is government land and the water rights are sold on easy terms. The principal crop will be alfalfa and 80 acres will be all one man can tend. Mr. McKim will engage in stock raising on a very extensive scale.—Pomona Review.

#### That School House.

The Imperial school is a novelty. The school district was formed last April, and under the law the school must be opened by the second Monday in September. There was no school-house, so, according to a correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, a shade was made by setting nine posts in the ground, and these posts supported a covering of brush and arrow weed. Under this shade are seats and desks occupied by twenty-four children and

had signed for Imperial holdings, viz.: W. H. Eaton, 320 acres; W. D. Ennor, 320 acres; G. R. Blodgett, 120 acres; J. W. Lindsay, 80 acres, and N. S. Hitchcock, 40 acres.—Riverside Enterprise.

#### Men and Horses.

Joe Estudillo and Charles Reinhardt left overland yesterday with five head of horses for Imperial, California. Joe is one of the leading business men of Imperial now.—Riverside Enterprise.

#### Synging out the Land.

J. H. McKim left for Imperial the first of the week for an absence of several days and perhaps two weeks. Mr. McKim intends to thoroughly investigate the merits of the soil of that great tract with a view of filing on perhaps a section of the land. Mr. McKim has been a frontiersman for over a quarter of a century and upon his verdict will depend whether several other Pomona people take up property there.—Pomona Review.

#### Best Land Going.

J. A. Hockett returned Tuesday from his trip to Imperial, San Diego county, where he filed on a quarter section of land under the irrigating system of the Imperial Land and Water Company. Mr. Hockett was more than pleased with the prospects at Imperial, but says that the desirable land is being taken up rapidly.—Whittier News.

#### Riverside Loses Good Men.

Felix G. Havens, a well-known entomologist and a former horticultural inspector of the county, left yesterday for Imperial, where he has a big tract of land which he will cultivate.—Los Angeles Times.