

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL.

The Imperial correspondent of the Los Angeles Express says:

"One year ago there were but five men on the tract who had been here for a year, but the population at present is probably not far from 1000, and most of these enumerated consider themselves permanent settlers.

"It is believed that the population is growing at the rate of from five to ten persons a day and that before spring there will be in the neighborhood of 5000 people here, the arrivals being more numerous as the water is more widely distributed."

An increase in the population of ten per day—mostly by immigration—would give 3560 additional people in a year if the rate of increase were not enlarged.

This condition of affairs raises the question of the formation of a new county at the next session of the Legislature in January, 1903. The preparatory work along that line must be done prior to general election in November, 1902.

Imperial will have a vigorous voice in electing one member of the assembly and one senator from San Diego county, and that voice should be used to select men who would be friendly to the new county movement.

At the present time, residents of the Imperial Settlements must travel nearly 350 miles, through three or four counties, in order to reach the county seat. When the requisite population—5000—is obtained in the east end of San Diego county, any legislature would certainly grant the desired relief when applied for.

Hon. W. S. Melick of Pasadena News is a candidate for the position of receiver of the United States Land Office at Los Angeles. This office is being conducted in a very satisfactory manner, but if there is to be a change no man in Southern California would, probably, be more acceptable to the people than Mr. Melick, who started in as a newspaper man and legislator from the Mojave Desert and then graduated in Pasadena.

There are 254,521 acres of improved and in the Territory of Arizona, all of which is probably irrigated. Of this land, 62,585 acres are producing alfalfa. The number of cattle is put at 607,000 and the number of sheep at 668,000. There are several thousand acres planted to orchards and vineyards.

The railroad estimate of the orange crop for the season of 1901-2 in Southern California is placed at 26,000 carloads as against 22,000 carloads last season, which was the largest orange crop ever harvested in the State.

The walnut crop is reported as fine as any produced in the history of the State. The Walnut Association has fixed prices at 9 and 9½ cents. The crop is estimated at fifty car loads in excess of last year's crop.

The honey crop in Southern California is the best in four years. Shipments to the East will reach 200 carloads.

A Town With No Saloon.

It is rather a remarkable coincidence that in a settlement of this character, where there are many people coming in every day, no one has yet seen on the streets of Imperial a man showing the effects of drink. It has been a long time since a town was built on the frontier in which a bank, a church, a school house and a newspaper were established before there was a saloon. It seems to be generally understood that the towns of the Imperial tract are to have no saloons, and that tends to draw a class of people who are not in sympathy with them. — Imperial Correspondent of San Diego Union.

ARGUING FOR STATE DIVISION.

The newspapers of Southern California may not deem it politic to argue for State division, and they all recognize that division is not likely to materialize in the near future. But we believe that almost without exception they favor it. And every once in a while some editor breaks out with an argument in favor of the proposition. Abbott Kinney's Saturday Evening Post is the latest. It says that "From the report of State Controller E. P. Colgan, recently published, the following figures are taken to show how well Southern California as a separate State could support a government on the present levy of 48 cents on each \$100 of valuation. The counties mentioned are those included in the new State by the Pico law, except the south half of Kern.

Counties.	Total value of All Property.
Los Angeles	\$103,328,904
Orange	11,245,544
Riverside	12,248,309
San Bernardino	16,116,149
San Diego	19,961,959
San Luis Obispo	12,313,984
Santa Barbara	13,969,868
Ventura	8,658,243

Total

"At the present State rate of 48 cents on each \$100 valuation, Southern California could, therefore raise \$949,647. With the south half of Kern county added, it would make an even million dollars. Many States, like Minnesota and Oregon, have no greater revenue. On this showing there is no doubt that Southern California is abundantly able to sustain the burden of a separate State government."—Riverside Press.

Were our government to secure title to Lower California on some basis that would be creditable to both nations, the State of South California could be established by taking the southern portion of the State as it now exists and annexing to it Lower California. In a very few years the new county of Imperial, with its \$50,000,000 of taxable property added to the natural rapid growth of the other counties and the rapid development of Lower California, which would be the natural result of the change of flag, would give a State with at least half the assessable property now found in California. Los Angeles would naturally be the capital of such new State.

HEADED FOR LOS ANGELES.

A dispatch from Los Angeles to the Los Angeles Times, dated November 6, says:

"Rumors continue to fly regarding building projects for the Rock Island. It is now stated that the Moores and their allied interests in the Rock Island have determined to extend from El Paso to Los Angeles, an old rumor being that the company was going to San Diego.

"It is asserted that on a recent trip of officials and directors over the system, Moores and Leeds came to the conclusion that the Los Angeles proposition is a good one. The officials of the company do not deny the Los Angeles project quite as strenuously as they do the San Diego proposition."

World Wide Repute.

The Imperial project is not only adding an immense area to the arable land of Southern California. It is opening the way for a new industry, that of cattle raising, and thus is rounding out more fully the resources of this great land, already possessed of a world-wide repute for its productivity.—Los Angeles Saturday Post.

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The population of Imperial, the new desert town, is said to be gaining at the rate of five persons a day, and the increase is steadily rising.—Los Angeles Times.