

**LITTLE EMPIRE IN ITSELF**

"A little empire in itself," is the way C. A. Scott refers to the New river country, in talking to the San Diego Union. Mr. Scott has just returned from the Imperial section and is enthusiastic over the prospects, more particularly from the fact that the development of the country is sure to be of great benefit to San Diego. "With all the money which is being spent to make the desert bloom," says Mr. Scott, "it cannot longer be said that San Diego has no back country. The fact is that San Diego had a back country before the development of the Imperial section was commenced, but she has a much greater one today."

The most interesting thing Mr. Scott heard at Imperial was the talk about the branch railroad from Flowing Wells, and the junction at Imperial with the San Diego-Eastern: "I found the greatest interest in the railroad project," says Mr. Scott "while the matter of junction of the two roads at Imperial was mentioned in my hearing a number of times. Our people have no conception of the large amount of work which is being done there. I am confident that the country over there has a great future. It has only just commenced to grow. People here should give it their hearty support. If they have't money to invest they should lose no opportunity to lend to the enterprise their moral support. There is going to be business enough over there to support a city larger than this. We are sure to get a large part of the benefits, particularly if we get our railroad. The fact to be borne in mind above all others is that the country is tributary to this city.

"At one of the meetings of our railroad committee I heard a well informed man say that the desert was capable of supporting a line of railroad to this city. Since then I have made two trips to the desert and I am now convinced that he was right.

"With plenty of water at their disposal there seems to be scarcely any limit to what can be raised. The stories which they tell, and which are borne out by the facts, seem almost incredible to people who have not been there to see for themselves. They told me that they were adding to the permanent population of Imperial valley at the rate of five persons per day. They look for a big rush of travel after the holidays. I made the trip overland and on the way, going and coming, saw many people enroute to the Imperial country with their household effects, leaving no doubt as to their intentions. There has been some marked changes in the value of real estate. Lands which were sold at \$1.25 per acre before the advent of water are now selling in small tracts with water at \$40 per acre."

Mr. Scott says that he was impressed with the good roads between here and the desert. With a good rig the trip can be made overland in about three days. Starting from San Diego the first day's drive brings the traveler to Potrero, the second to Jacumba, and the third to Imperial, the coming capitol of the desert. One of the poorest stretches of road is the Mountain Springs canyon road, and it is being wonderfully improved at the expense of the county. Good accommodations are to be had at Petrero and Jacumba. Water is provided for horses along the route, and the trip may be made safely and with comparative ease.

**Preparing for Crops**

There is a great increase in inquiry for alfalfa and barley seed reported by the Imperial Mercantile company, and it is evident that many land owners are getting ready to put in crops as soon as the water is available for them.

**STRUCTURAL WORK PROGRESSING**

In bringing water from the Colorado river and distributing it over the vast tract of land, without having an impounding reservoir anywhere on the line, it is necessary to have a number of large structural works to control the flow of the water, and in addition to this, the canals and laterals are so large that a number of big bridges are required. This makes a demand for a great deal of lumber, some of it of special dimensions which can only be had on special order and which is sometimes delayed in shipment. The work on the structures is proceeding rapidly, however, and the last few weeks have made a material difference in the appearance of the canals and laterals. The drop and main headgate at Station 32 is finished, as is the headgate from the main canal into the north fork of Carter river, for irrigating the East Side, and the carpenter work is finished on the big drop at station 134. Grading is about finished for another big drop in the main canal at station 331. Two bridges have been constructed over the main canal, one on Imperial avenue, between Imperial and Calexico, and the other east of Calexico. Each of these bridges has two spans of about 50 feet each, the main canal being larger than many rivers.

One of the most important structural works will be on the main canal south of Imperial, at the point where it turns to the northward. There will be a drop of 11 feet and a waste leading to New river. There will also be headgates in the structure for the Elder and Eucalyptus laterals and a delivery box for the ditch leading to Imperial. Teams are now at work grading for this structure, and the carpenters will soon be at work on it.

**A Reality Beyond Dreams**

The most potential project in the President's message is the one which is attracting least attention where it should be most loudly acclaimed.

The great manufacturing East clamors for markets, for more and more consumers of the products of its expanding industrial enterprises. President Roosevelt points to the deserts and dry lands of the West—500,000,000 acres still in the public domain and as much again in private hands, all yielding almost nothing.

There are 1,600,000 square miles of the richest land—for desert land is full of the virgin resources of nature for the production of vegetable life. It is a domain containing not far from one-half the area of the United States. It is capable of maintaining a population of several hundred millions. It is rich in all the raw materials of civilization.

It awaits only the scientific application of the very simple principles of irrigation.

This bird in our hand is worth a billion in the bush.—New York World.

**Severe Wind Storm**

Throughout Southern California a severe windstorm prevailed on Friday, December 27, which in some places did material damage to buildings, while it is estimated that 1000 carloads of oranges were destroyed. In Los Angeles, which was out of the wind belt, the dust was so dense as to cloud the sun as completely as is done by a rainstorm. It was the worst storm known for many years.

In Imperial the wind came from the north, and while not strong enough to tear down tents or other temporary quarters, a disagreeable amount of dust was raised.

The mill at the brick yard is now at work, and the pressed green brick are being spread in the sun as rapidly as six men can do the work.

**DECEMBER WEATHER**

December weather in Imperial valley is delightful. The nights are cool and the days are comfortably warm, while the air is always invigorating. During the last month during the coldest night mercury in still air, according to the Government test, marked 24 degrees above zero, though a thermometer exposed near the ground the same night registered 19. The warmest night during the month the minimum temperature was 55. The lowest maximum temperature for a day during the month was 55, and the highest maximum was 85. The mean maximum temperature for the month was 73 and the mean minimum was 40. The record of the month by days follows:

Date	Maximum	Minimum
1	85	55
2	83	51
3	80	44
4	80	44
5	80	46
6	79	47
7	76	50
8	69	48
9	68	43
10	72	36
11	67	38
12	66	54
13	55	45
14	59	24
15	65	26
16	69	30
17	76	35
18	75	34
19	78	34
20	76	41
21	74	44
22	77	38
23	73	33
24	76	33
25	73	37
26	74	37
27	64	32
28	64	38
29	73	35
30	75	40
31	79	39

During the month there was a trace of rain on the 12th and two partly cloudy days. Otherwise clear skies prevailed.

**Work on Laterals**

Steady progress is being made on the irrigation distributing system, George A. Carter having completed Date lateral, a half mile east of town, through to the town ditch. He has moved his camp to Dahlia lateral, a half mile west of town, having a contract for 32,800 feet of that lateral, which is ten feet wide on the bottom. Other contractors are moving on steadily with their work.

**Alfalfa and Barley Seed**

Just received from Utah a carload of alfalfa seed. Also choice seed barley for sale. Imperial Mercantile company, Calexico.

**Mainly Personal**

W. B. Mufford and C. S. Conner of San Diego have returned home after several weeks spent in the valley. They will soon return to get in crops.

The stage on Wednesday brought in P. E. Carr of Yuma, Charles Riemschneider of Fresno, R. Mitchell of Cambria, A. J. Happe of Redlands and J. W. Brownell of Phoenix, all land seekers, and S. B. Brown, land agent for San Bernardino county.

C. R. Rockwood came down to the valley Monday, accompanied by his brother, the two proceeding to Calexico. Mr. Rockwood is one of the original workers for the irrigation of Imperial valley. He left for San Francisco Wednesday, his brother remaining in the hope of improving his health in this climate.

**NATIONAL IRRIGATION**

Representative Newlands of Nevada, secretary of the arid lands committee of congress representing all arid and semi-arid states and territories, has sent out a copy of the bill, as completed by that committee, and requests suggestions from those interested. A meeting of the entire committee is to be held January 7, when the bill will be gone over and indorsed as the arid lands bill, to stand or fall. The bill, as framed and perfected by the subcommittee, has met the indorsement of all the representatives of the western states who have seen it. Its main provisions are:

All money received from the sale of public lands in arid or semi-arid states and territories, except 5 per cent set apart for school purposes, is to go into an arid land reclamation fund.

The secretary of the interior is directed to survey, locate and construct irrigation works.

The secretary may withdraw from public entry lands required for irrigation works, lands under irrigation systems to be subject to entry only under the provisions of the homestead law in lots of not more than eighty acres.

The secretary is authorized to let contracts for the construction, in whole or part, of any given system, to be paid for from the reclamation fund, provided no system shall be built where the estimates show that the cost would exceed \$10 per acre of lands irrigable therefrom, and provided that no contract shall be let until the necessary funds are available.

Title to all works is to remain in the government.

In case the water developed is more than sufficient to perpetuate the government works, water rights may be sold to irrigate private land at not less than \$5 an acre, but not for more than eighty acres to one land owner. This money is to go into the reclamation fund.

Nothing in the bill is intended to conflict or affect in any way the laws of any state or territory regarding the control, appropriation, use or distribution of water, but state laws shall control in the use and distribution of waters rendered available under the reclamation bill; provided that the right to use the water acquired under this bill shall be perpetual, and beneficial use shall be the basis and limit of right.

**New Years' Awakening**

The new year was ushered in Wednesday morning, just after midnight, by a salute from a number of six shooters. Fear had been expressed by a number of people that the new year would not appear on time, and to make sure of its advent a watch was set at the store of the Imperial Mercantile company and at the hotel, the engineer corps being in town to assist in the good work.

F. F. Hall, in charge of the corps, had a fine display of fruit, cigars and candies which were passed around with generous hand while awaiting midnight.

While the reception of the new year was spontaneous it was none the less enthusiastic, and work was resumed Wednesday morning with a zeal, confidence being felt that the year 1902 has some great things in store for Imperial valley.

**Formal Church Organization**

There will be a formal solemnization of the organization of the congregation at the Christian church Sunday morning, and in the evening Rev. John C. Hay will preach on the subject, "Does the Bible forbid a Christian taking interest on money loaned?"