

THE IMPERIAL PRESS

"Water is King—Here is its Kingdom."

VOL. IV.

IMPERIAL, CAL., SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1904.

NO. 8

Published at the center of the greatest irrigated territory in America, in the heart of the Colorado desert, San Diego county, Southern California, 67 feet below the level of the sea. Under present canals, 250,000 acres; under irrigation system when completed, 400,000 acres. Adjacent to irrigated land in Arizona and land to be irrigated by the National Government from the same grand Colorado river which will make a combined body of more than a million irrigated acres.

SMYTHE SAYS NO SECRECY

Declares That Bill Relating to Colorado River Water Had Full Publicity

The Muddle Relates Wholly to the Yuma End of the Project

Referring to a dispatch sent from Los Angeles and appearing in Sunday's Union, to the effect that the Colorado Delta company has complicated matters by declining to settle on a satisfactory basis with the United States reclamation service, issue is taken by the friends of national irrigation. In an interview last evening, William E. Smythe, who has publicly advocated the cause of the Imperial valley farmers as against the California Development company, said:

"The dispatch has three points of special interest as follows:

"First, the statement that congress passed a law giving the reclamation service rights on the Colorado river which are superior to those now enjoyed by private companies.

"Second, that the Colorado Delta company will contest this law in the courts.

"Third, that an attempt will be made to curb the autocratic powers of the secretary of the interior and have the national irrigation policy administered hereafter by a commission.

"It is true that congress authorized the reclamation service to utilize the river for the irrigation of the Yuma reservation and adjacent arid lands and that the latter phrase is sufficiently comprehensive to cover all the territory which may be conveniently and economically watered from the dam which is to be built above Yuma. If this happens, while the watchdogs of the private companies were off their guard, as the dispatch states, it may be unfortunate for those companies, but certainly the public has no ground for complaint. Both the Colorado river and the public lands which it commands are the property of the United States and congress certainly has a right to deal with them in the manner which it thinks will best subserve the interests of the American people, including the settler who bears the entire cost of the work.

"If congress had granted rights to private companies which it denied to the reclamation service there would be good cause for criticism and complaint. As it is I think the public will heartily applaud what congress did. There was no secrecy about this matter at all. The bill was favorably reported by the committees of both houses and received the usual publicity. If its true significance was not appreciated by the watchdogs of private companies, it was certainly understood by the mastiffs and terriers of national irrigation.

"The Colorado Delta company is composed of estimable business men, most of whom live in San Francisco. James D. Schuyler, builder of the Sweetwater dam, is its consulting engineer. This company expected to take water from the river some miles above the Laguna dam to be built by the government, and to use it upon the very same lands which the government now expects to irrigate, on the Arizona side of the stream. I have talked with the representatives of the company and understood them to admit that they started the enterprise after the national irrigation law was enacted, after the interior department had withdrawn the lands from settlement, and even after the engineering parties were in the field. The law was passed on June 17, 1902; the lands withdrawn June 27; and the engineering party began work in September, while the Colorado Delta company did not acquire its interests in Arizona until the latter part of November, 1902. Probably these enterprising



THE HOTEL IMPERIAL

The beautiful Hotel Imperial just finished by the Imperial Land Company, at a cost of ten thousand dollars, is being furnished by the lessee, Mrs. Laura Waters and it is hoped to have it ready for opening about June 15.

The picture shows the building better than words. It is a stately building of the Colonial style, with massive pillars on two sides, and a broad cement walk flanks it on Ninth street and Imperial avenue.

The rooms are ready now, but the culinary department is not ready and the dining room will not be opened till about the time mentioned. There are

gentlemen did not believe the government really meant business. It is true that this company purchased the property of an earlier enterprise, dating back, I believe, to 1895, but the company which it acquired was irrigating no land at the time, nor is the present company doing so today.

"The secretary of the interior certainly has great power under the national irrigation law, but he exercises this power with the advice of the finest commission that could be created under any law. I refer to the board of consulting engineers, composed of five of the most competent men who could be found in the United States. Mr. H. N. Savage of this city is a valued member of the board and his associates are also men of wide experience and proved capacity, but long before any project is brought to the attention of the board of consulting engineers it has been subjected to the most careful investigation by the supervising engineer of the district in which it is located and his numerous assistants. Then it must run the gauntlet of the consulting board, then of the chief engineer of the reclamation service, then of the director of the geological survey, and finally, of the secretary of the interior. In the case of very big things, like the projects on the Colorado river, it is likely that the president and the cabinet pass upon it also. It is certainly difficult to understand how the administration of the law could be improved.

"In conclusion, the matter mentioned in the dispatch should cause no uneasiness to those interested on the California side of the river. It relates wholly to the Yuma end of the project. A private company claims that the reclamation service proposes to do something which will trespass upon its rights or interfere with its business. The matter has nothing to do with Imperial. If the public generally had as much confidence in the government as the Yuma farmers who have signed con-

tracts for the irrigation of their lands by the water to be diverted at the Laguna dam, no one will fear that the complaining company will lose any rights which really belong to it without just compensation. Still less will anyone fear that the great policy of national irrigation will be retarded or injured in the slightest degree. The river which has gone wasting to the gulf for untold ages is about to be made useful to man, no matter what chips float on the tide."

Electric Power Coming

The Imperial Electric Light, Water and Power Company is pressing forward its preparations for electric service, and hopes by the first of August to be furnishing electric light and power to the people of Imperial. Machinery for the plant is on the way here, and will be immediately installed on its arrival. The company will have an office up town, at the Land Company's office, and the light and power and domestic water departments will be immediately in charge of and under the management of Mr. Rufus C. Hubbard, the young gentleman under whose direction the tower is now being erected.

Mr. Hubbard says the water mains for Imperial Avenue are expected daily and will be immediately put in and the trenches closed up on their arrival.

The water tower is very nearly completed and will be ready soon. Its capacity is 10,000 gallons and it will be elevated 34 feet to raise it over any building in town.

Supervisor Jasper has returned from St. Louis, where he attended the Good Roads Convention.

INCORPORATION GOES

Election Set for June 30 at the Water Office

Boundaries Conform With Petition of February 5. Election Proclamation Published in This Issue.

Tuesday's Union says,

"Other than legislation upon county claims, the business of the board of supervisors was light yesterday.

A petition signed by D. C. MacDougall and fifty-five others, asking that an election be held for the purpose of voting upon the incorporation of Imperial as a city of the sixth class, was favorably acted upon. The election was called for June 30, from 6 a. m. to 5 p. m., at the office of Imperial Water company No. 1, Imperial. The following election officers were appointed:

Inspectors, D. C. Huddleson, George Varney; judges, S. W. Mitchell, J. E. Heber; ballot clerks, Archie Priest, W. B. Hammers; clerks, Frank M. Salisbury, Harvey N. Dyke.

This is good news to all, and means much for the advancement of Imperial. It is doubly gratifying to the friends who have waited for it so faithfully, and will mark a new era in the growth of the city. Let all turn out and work for it, that the election may be unanimous in its favor.

CHANGE IN BANK OFFICIALS

New President and Cashier—Mr. Leroy Holt Repurchases His Interest.

W. F. Holt having sold his interest in the First National Bank has resigned its presidency, and is succeeded by Mr. Leroy Holt, former cashier, which position is succeeded to by Mr. Geo. A. Carter. J. H. McKim having also sold has resigned his position as director and is succeeded by Mr. E. J. Marshall, vice president of the Southwestern National Bank of Los Angeles. Mr. Carter also fills the vacancy in the directory caused by the resignation of W. F. Holt. This general change also implies another gratifying one in the repurchase by Mr. Leroy Holt of the interest sold by him some weeks ago.

A SALTON STOCK RANGE

25,000 Acres Moist Land Feeding 1,500 Cattle.

D. P. Osborne has a snap in a cattle range in the Salton sink, where the overflow of the rivers and canals moistens 25,000 acres of land to a degree that produces much grass and brush, and feeds, in good shape, fifteen hundred head of cattle. Mr. Osborne reports 20,000 inches of water flowing through his ditches, and has frequent rich sales of cattle to make. He has gone to Colton this week to dispose of a drove.

House Burned

Clay Wheelock's house was burned Monday afternoon. It was of frame, 12 x 16, 4 miles southwest of town on the Eucalyptus lateral, adjoining E. E. Forrester. It was unoccupied, and is supposed to have been fired by mice eating ratches.