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**PARAMOUNT ISSUE**

We are glad to present our readers this week with the report of the Secretary of the Interior concerning the use of the waters of the lower Colorado river for irrigation. This report should be carefully read and pondered for it contains the true light on the question of a water supply for the Imperial Valley. The result of the policy outlined in this report will bring most profound changes to our Valley, for no one can read it carefully and still doubt but that every acre in the United States that can be watered from the Colorado River will be brought under national irrigation.

The time when the change from corporate domination to government control of the Imperial canal system shall take place depends very largely upon the people of this Valley. We make this statement and express this opinion because we have observed the course of events in other places where government irrigation projects have been launched, and we realize that we are in no condition as yet to take up government ownership if it was offered to us. In the cases of Yuma and Phoenix there were Water Users' Associations organized and preliminary contracts signed by the owners of a very large proportion of the acreage to be benefited before the contract with the Secretary of the Interior was prepared.

This contract did not become operative in the case of either Yuma or Phoenix till the owners of ninety-five per cent of the lands in private ownership in the area to be watered, had signed the contract and agreed to the government's conditions. In our case, not only has nothing at all been done in this direction, but the Water Users' Association has no subscribed capital stock, outside of the eleven shares held by its eleven Directors. One share each.

In view of the fact that the owners of ninety-five per cent of the lands will more than likely be required to sign the contract and subscribe for stock in the Water Users' Association before any contract with the Secretary of the Interior will become operative and as it is not likely the government will pay out any money, either for the California Development Company's property or for construction work till its security is forthcoming in proper shape. It is plain to us that the present do-nothing policy of the Water Users' Association is a very grave mistake.

We believe it is a serious mistake for us to expect the government to "move," as our conservative friends express it. It is not the government's "move" just now. The Secretary has "moved" considerably, we think, already. He has "moved" all claims to ownership and control of the Colorado River by corporations or individuals into the scrap-heap, and in their place established the unchallenged fact of government ownership and control of the waters of that stream, and established the rule that water cannot be legally diverted from this river without his consent and approval and in compliance with his orders.

It is clear to us that the people of Imperial Valley must prepare themselves for government irrigation before it can be achieved.

The present Water Users' Association does not represent the hopes and aspirations of our people. Its policy of subserviency to the California Development Company's interests is not endorsed by the people it pretends to represent and its present inaction cannot be defended as being in the interests of the people.

**"KALAMITY HOWLERS"**

There are a few men who have, during the past year, made considerable "easy money" in this Valley when there was lots of land and water stock selling, and no one suspected or at least contested the validity of the water rights of the California Development Company. With a good commission in sight they had a natural desire for real estate business to keep up. But there came a time, and the time is at hand, when the government claims the only water right. There is lots of land for sale but water stock don't sell so rapidly and there is not much commission in selling government land. Therefore, there is a howl from this corner, and "nothing doing," "business quiet," "agitation has ruined the country," etc., has been circulated, and some people have a touch of the "kalamity fever." All the agitation, all the fight has been made with one grand end in view—Government ownership, and the goal is not far off. The business men are doing two to one as much business as was done last year at this time. There is a remarkable amount of building going on. The railroad company is overtaxed. The farmers have plenty of water, and the fields are already green with vegetation. Every thing is working for the right, and the only injury the country is now suffering is that done by the "kalamity howlers" who can't sell their "gold bricks." When energetic men find the bottom of any line of business, they most always change their tactics or go to pastures that are new. Two men in this Valley who are at the head of two real estate firms have turned considerable attention to farming, which is the backbone of our Valley. They are making money and are satisfied. They have set a pace that might be wise for others to follow. There's lots of land and water!

**"THE RIGHT"**

"The duties and privileges of the press, as an educator, as a leader and reflector of public sentiment, and as a substantial force in the building up of every community, would seem to be a subject concerning which there might be no great difference of opinion. No other single agency is so often called upon to labor pro bono publico, and to expect its reward in heaven. There is no class whom it may not serve; there is no interest which it may not benefit, and there is never a time when its voice is not raised in defense of the right and to decry that which is wrong. It has unearthed more that was corrupt in political and municipal life than all other agencies combined, and by common consent, it has been charged with the duty of keeping close watch upon public morals, and WOE is that journal that once gains the reputation of being afraid to speak or having SOLD its influence to Mammon. There are differences of opinion, however, so widely marked that they are not to be reconciled, and the only solution of the problem is to ascertain which is wrong, for they will no more admit of compromise, than can the perfect mixture of oil and water be accomplished."

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., January 20, 1905.

Notice is hereby given that CHARLES E. SCOTT, of Holtville, Cal., has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 1413, for the E 1/2 Sec. 9, Twp. 15 S, R 15 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Tuesday, the 7th day of March, 1905.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Albert C. Ferguson, of Holtville, Cal.; Francis M. Ferguson, of Holtville, Cal.; Porter N. Ferguson, of Holtville, Cal.; John A. Scott, of Los Angeles, Cal.

A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

Jan 28-feb 25

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., January 20, 1905.

Notice is hereby given that ETHEL FERGUSON, of Holtville, Cal., assignee of John G. Liebman, has filed notice of intention to make proof on her desert-land claim No. 1423, for the W 1/2 Sec. 9, Twp. 15 S, R 15 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Wednesday, the 8th day of March, 1905.

She names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Francis M. Ferguson, Porter N. Ferguson, Charles E. Scott, and Jennie Norton, all of Holtville, Cal.

A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

Jan 28-feb 25

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., January 20, 1905.

Notice is hereby given that ALBERT C. FERGUSON, of Holtville, Cal., assignee of Richard Sethman, has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 1410, for the SE 1/4 Sec. 4, Twp. 15 S, R 15 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Wednesday, the 8th day of March, 1905.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Francis M. Ferguson, Porter N. Ferguson, Jennie Norton, and C. E. Scott, all of Holtville, Cal.

A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

Jan 28-feb 25

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., January 20, 1905.

Notice is hereby given that PORTER N. FERGUSON, of Holtville, Cal., assignee of Floyd G. Thayer, has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 1548, for the SW 1/4 Sec. 4, Twp. 15 S, R 15 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Thursday, the 9th day of March, 1905.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Francis M. Ferguson, Albert C. Ferguson, C. E. Scott, and Jennie Norton, all of Holtville, Cal.

A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

Jan 28-feb 25

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., January 20, 1905.

Notice is hereby given that STELLA FERGUSON, of Holtville, Cal., assignee of Frank E. Billheimer, has filed notice of intention to make proof on her desert-land claim No. 1549, for the NW 1/4 Sec. 14, Twp. 15 S, R 15 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Thursday the 9th day of March, 1905.

She names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Francis M. Ferguson, Albert C. Ferguson, C. E. Scott, and Jennie Norton, all of Holtville, Cal.

Jan 28-feb 25 A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., January 13, 1905.

Notice is hereby given that FREDERICK A. FENDER, of Holtville, Cal., assignee of Richard B. Chaplin, has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 1484, for the S 1/2 of NE 1/4, SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4, Sec. 17, Twp. 15 S, R 15 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Thursday, the 23d day of February, 1905.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

S. E. Gipson, of Pasadena, Cal.; Frank Chaplin, of Imperial, Cal.; H. G. Stratton, of Holtville, Cal.; F. E. Fender, of Holtville, Cal.

A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

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**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., December 21, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that WILLIAM V. BAKER, of Imperial, Cal., has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 2710, for the N 1/2 of SW 1/4 Sec. 6, Twp. 16 S, R 14 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Tuesday, the 14th day of February, 1905.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Charles L. Cressey, of Imperial, Cal.; George T. Irvin, of Imperial, Cal.; C. I. Calkins, of Los Angeles, Cal.; C. T. Collier, of Los Angeles, Cal.

dec 31-jan 28 A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

**DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal., December 15, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that GEORGE GUNDERSON, of Imperial, Cal., assignee of HANNAH S. WEBSTER, has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 1368, for the S 1/2 of SW 1/4 Sec. 12, Twp. 15 S, R 13 E, S. B. M., before Register and Receiver at Los Angeles, Cal., on Monday, the 6th day of February, 1905.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Huntington McKusick, Frank Drendel, Daniel Webster, L. B. Shapard, all of Imperial, Cal.

A. J. CROOKSHANK, Register.

dec 31-jan 28

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