

AN IMPORTANT MATTER

Conflict Between Imperial Water Co. No. 5, and California Development Co. Reaches Acute Stage

About one year ago a contract was made between the California Development Company and Imperial Water Company No. 5, establishing a settlement between the two companies for all matters up to that time, and providing a basis for the conduct of further operations. This contract was made between Mr. A. H. Heber who was then president, and general manager, representing the California Development Company and the board of directors of Imperial Water Company No. 5. It was published in the PRESS of May 27th, 1905, together with the proceedings of the stockholders' meeting of the California Development Company, at which Mr. Heber was given complete control over its property and affairs.

This contract has been a matter of controversy between the companies interested almost ever since it was made. The California Development Company objecting to its observation and Water Company No. 5 insisting upon it. Matters now seem to have reached an acute stage, as the following letter from General Manager Cory of the Development Company, addressed to the stockholders of Imperial Water Company No. 5 will show:

CALEXICO, CALIF., May 5, 1906.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF IMPERIAL WATER COMPANY NO. 5:

GENTLEMEN:—For some time past, negotiations have been pending between representatives of the California Development company and La Sociedad de Yrrigacion y Terrenos de la Baja California, which two companies I now represent, on the one side, and your directors on the other, for a settlement of the several matters in dispute between the first two named companies and your company. It seems practically certain that no agreement can be arrived at at this time.

There is, and always has been, one condition insisted upon by The California Development Company and La Sociedad de Yrrigacion y Terrenos, namely: The immediate full payment of all sums for water due these companies by your company. It is needless for me to call your attention to the special and extraordinary reasons why all money now due the companies I represent should be immediately paid; but, independent of these special reasons, water charges must always be paid when due, for in any other way the companies cannot do business.

The water rentals (so-called) due from your company July 1, 1905, and those due January 1, 1906, are wholly unpaid, and if these are not paid at once steps will have to be taken by the companies I represent to cancel the contract under which that water is being delivered. I, therefore, on behalf of each and both The California Development Company and La Sociedad de Yrrigacion y Terrenos notify you that unless all money then due from your company for water is paid by May 20, 1906, action will be brought to cancel, annul and set aside the contracts between Imperial Water Company No. 5 and La Sociedad de Yrrigacion y Terrenos and The California Development Company, either or both, under which water has heretofore been delivered to said Imperial Water Company No. 5 for use by its stockholders.

Before taking this action, inasmuch as all the settlers of Imperial Water Company No. 5 have paid their assessments due on July 1, 1905 and January 1, 1906 covering the amount levied for the amount of water rentals due our companies and such money having apparently been used for other purposes, we think it no more than fair to call your attention to our proposed action since you are going to be directly affected, and should have an opportunity to insist upon your Board of Directors taking care of your interests by using the money which you have paid in for the purpose for which it was paid in.

Very truly yours,
H. T. CORY, General Manager.

This letter will doubtless open a very interesting controversy, as it is quite likely the Board of Directors of Imperial Water Company No. 5 will desire to make public their position in the matter.

To Be Done Over

The following letter indicates that half of the work done in the Los Angeles Land Office must be done over:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., April 30, 1906.
General Frank C. Prescott,
Register U. S. Land Office,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Sir: As you are aware, the records of this office were all burned after the earthquake.

The first installment of abstracts of entries transmitted by you in the beginning of April is lost. I therefore have to request you to kindly furnish us with a new copy of said first installment and also to hasten the getting out of the abstracts as much as possible, holding the same, however, at your office until further advised.

Temporary address, 1124 Page street.

Very respectfully,

W. S. GRAHAM,

U. S. Surveyor General for California.

The work of making out these abstracts is not delayed and the last half are about finished. Work will begin without delay and will be continued rapidly so that when the Surveyor General calls for the abstracts all will be ready for him. Should he desire to begin now the last half are available. From this activity and from the tenor of the letter it appears that every one is endeavoring to expedite the resurvey of Imperial lands.

The Rise of The Salton Sea

Last week we published the report that the water was rising three inches per day in the Salton sea and that the Government Date Farm would be flooded in nine months if it continued to rise at that rate. We had this from a party that resides in the Coachella Valley, but as he had not made any measurements for himself we decided to write to our friend, B. G. Johnson, who has charge of the date farm, and is conversant with the facts, and get from him a full statement of the matter. In answer he sent us the following letter:

MECCA, May 7, 1906.

MR. F. G. HAVENS,

EL CENTRO, CALIF.

DEAR MR. HAVENS: Your letter received yesterday. I was unable to go to the lake today, and shall not be able to go there until Saturday.

The lake is now only 3 1-2 miles in a straight line from our place and as far as I can calculate is at present at an elevation of 235 feet or thereabout. I do not think that the lake ever rose at a rate of three inches a day for more than one or two days. I think the average raise since the floods commenced some weeks ago has only been in the neighborhood of 1 3-4 inches a day. Some days a strong northwest wind will blow or drive the water back and the level will actually fall, but as soon as the wind lets up the lake immediately comes back and it is probably on such days that a raise of 3 inches has been observed.

The location of the date garden is at about 190 feet, so that we are only 40 feet above the lake and if your people don't shut off the lower Mexican intake next fall, then the next flood if it be normal would drive us away.

I am not connected with the Reclamation Service, neither do I take any measurements or keep a record of the level of the lake. I understand that that is done at Salton, consequently you are at liberty to publish anything I am writing you on this subject if it is of sufficient importance to you to justify publication.

I shall keep you informed from time to time about the situation at Mecca in regard to Salton Lake and hoping for a speedy closing off of the water I remain,

Very truly yours,

BERNARD G. JOHNSON.

We also wrote to the Reclamation Service and asked to be furnished the reports of the observations taken by them. The greatest depth that has ever been reached in the Salton depression, was 287 feet below sea level. As the level is now at about 235 feet it shows that the water is about 60 feet deep in the deepest part of the lake.

When the railroad was moved last January, it was put on the 200 foot contour, that is, 200 feet below sea level. The water level was then about 250 feet below, and it was believed that putting the railroad 50 feet above the water would make it safe, regardless of whether the water was shut off or not. However, as the water seems to be rising at the rate of about 5 feet per month, it shows that the railroad people must either shut off the water or "get a move on" within a year at the farthest.

3 good assignments cheap, 2 to 3 miles of El Centro. Good soft soil. See Fuller & Aten, The Land-Men, El Centro, Calif.

160 Acre Ranch

3 1-2 miles of El Centro, soft soil, good alfalfa, grape or cantaloupe land. 80 acres of this land is in a high state of cultivation. This is a bargain at \$1280. You had better see it at once.

FULLER & ATEN,
The Land-Men,
El Centro, Calif.

I have 320 acres of the choicest land in the Imperial Valley, nicely located and well improved. All fenced and cross fenced. Price right and will give good terms. See Wilson about it.

A fine 80 acre unimproved ranch at \$22.00 an acre. It only takes \$400.00 down and \$400.00 a year to handle this proposition. You can handle this. Bert R. Chaplin, Imperial, Cal.

Watch Us! Watch Us!

And Let Us Watch You

We can fit you up with a new Watch or we can put that old one of yours in repair and guarantee the work either way.

Everything in Jewelry and a nice assortment of Watches and Clocks at the

Imperial Jewelry Co.

Imperial, California.

It will pay you to see Wilson for the best bargains in the Imperial Valley, or I have the best trading list in the Valley. Go out and look them over with me. I keep rigs for that purpose and will offset my time against yours. Office Commercial Hotel, Imperial, Cal.

Fortunate Missourians

"When I was a druggist at Livonia, Mo.," writes T. J. Dyer, now of Graysville, Mo., "three of my customers were permanently cured of consumption by Dr. King's New Discovery, and are well and strong today. One was trying to sell his property and move to Arizona, but after using New Discovery a short time he found it unnecessary to do so. I regard Dr. King's New Discovery as the most wonderful medicine in existence." Surest Cough and Cold cure and Throat and Lung healer. Guaranteed by all druggists, 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

200 acres fine land, 1/2 mile from railroad station, all in cultivation, good house, fenced, 60 acres alfalfa, price right and terms easy. Bert R. Chaplin, Imperial, Cal.

THE IMPERIAL DRUG CO.

Has just received the largest and best assortment of

.... Perfumes, Toilet Waters, Talcum and Face Powders....

ever brought into the Valley. The same old story: Large shipments of the best quality of goods. Means low selling prices.

DRS. HOLTZMAN, Druggists and Opticians

The Bank is Next Door to Us

HOTEL FRANKLIN

EL CENTRO, CAL.

The Pioneer Hotel of El Centro

Headquarters for working men and farmers

Clean beds and comfortable rooms

Meals 25 cents. Beds and Rooms 25 cents and up

Mrs. S. I. Masten, Prop.

Livery teams furnished when desired. Draying and hauling done.

Walter A. Wood

Machines and Implements

For the Farm

Birdsell Wagons. Kingman

Plows and Cultivators

J. Stanley Brown

El Centro,

California

SHOE UP AT RUMSEY'S

Some of the Shoes ordered for our new store are already here and several more lots are due to arrive in a few days.

Among the arrivals this week are:

Women's White Canvas Oxfords . . . \$1.25 to \$2.00

Women's Black Oxfords, . . . \$1.50 to \$3.50

Children's Oxfords and Barefoot Sandals

Men's Work Shoes, black or tan, soft uppers with welt soles, a fine easy Shoe, at \$3.50

Men's and Boys' Canvas Shoes . . . \$1.40 and \$1.50

El Centro Department

Store

Roy L. Rumsey, Proprietor