

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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Editor and Publisher

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GLORY

Reverting to the matter of the correction of the Imperial survey and the work of getting the Land Department to do it in the manner desired by the people of this valley, we notice a statement in the Imperial Standard of May 11 from Mr. P. H. McPherrin, giving an account of his stewardship of the peoples' interests during his visit to Washington in furtherance of the resurvey matter. In this article he refers to some things we should have said regarding his Washington trip.

In our issue of April 7, we published the news that the resurvey had been ordered on the lines asked for in the petitions published first in the PRESS of January 27, 1906. The Los Angeles Times of Friday, March 30 contained a telegram from Washington stating that the Commissioner of the General Land Office had informed Senator Flint that he had ordered the survey made in accordance with the request of the settlers. This telegram was dated Washington, D. C., March 29.

In the issue of the PRESS of April 7 we published a letter from Senator Flint to General Prescott, the Receiver of the U. S. Land Office at Los Angeles, Cal., under date of Washington, D. C., March 24, 1906, in which he states that the officials of the General Land Office informed him that they had already ordered the lands in this valley surveyed by metes and bounds, as requested by the settlers.

Mr. McPherrin and the petitions he carried, arrived in Washington on March 27.

Copies of the petition published in the PRESS were in the hands of Senators Flint and Perkins and Congressman Smith as early as February 5, and the matter was promptly taken up by them with the Department. These gentlemen were fully advised as to the facts in the matter and the merits of the peoples' request, and while a movement for a new bill was being fomented here in the valley and the work of the PRESS was being opposed, Senator Flint and Congressman Smith were urging the General Land Office to grant the petition we were supporting.

Their efforts were apparently successful as early as March 24, or else Senator Flint would not have written General Prescott as he did.

We are glad Mr. McPherrin went to Washington, even if his arrival there was delayed till March 27.

He was in Imperial Valley about March 1, and in conversation with us, did not seem to be so wedded to the idea of a bill as not to be willing to work for the

plan set forth in the petitions. We, therefore, in our issue of March 10, gave Mr. McPherrin and his journey our support. The fact that the plan we advocated was successful, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office discomfited the croakers by acceding to the requests of the settlers, is sufficient for us.

It was held by the protagonists of the bill that Congress must coerce the Department into giving justice to the people of this valley. All are now willing to praise the generous treatment accorded us by the government officials.

The facts are that while Senator Flint and Congressman Smith were getting this matter taken up by the Land Office and proper instructions issued covering the matter, our critics were floundering in the slough of despond chasing the ignis fatui of a proposed bill.

Now that success has been attained all should rejoice.

SUPPRESSING THE TRUTH

"Some criticism has been made of the News because it published the account of the earthquake shock in full, the reason being given that it might create a bad impression outside. It has always been the policy of the newspapers to minimize bad reports as much as possible. The News believes that such a policy should never have existed. Had the Imperial Press, for a long time the only newspaper in the Valley, published and not suppressed the misdeeds of the old management of the California Development company, the headgate at the Colorado river would have been built when promised and it would not be necessary for the Southern Pacific to spend half a million dollars or more trying to repair the damage. Neither would it have been possible for the water companies to have been forced to accept canal systems on which it was necessary to expend large sums of money before they were suitable for the purposes intended, and for the construction of which the money had once been paid. Although the News will not unnecessarily enlarge upon facts detrimental to the country, yet it does not propose to suppress news of vital interest to the people.

The above editorial in the Brawley News of May 11th, is reproduced in full for the benefit of our readers and for the purpose of making some comments on the same. The strictures on the Imperial PRESS are well taken, and we agree with every word Brother Witter says in regard to the matter. But we want to point out that there have been former managements of the PRESS, as well as of the California Development company. The misdeeds complained of were almost all committed from 1902 to 1904. The Imperial PRESS was started on April 20th, 1901 with Henry C. Reed as editor and publisher, and continued under his charge until November 2nd 1901, when Edgar F. Howe became editor and manager. Mr. Howe guided the destinies of the PRESS from November 2nd 1901 till August 23d 1902, or one week less than ten months. The paper then became the property of the Imperial Land company and from August 23d 1902 till March 7th 1903 was edited by L. M. Holt. For this space of six months and two weeks Mr. Howe was not connected with the paper, but on March 7th 1903, he again took charge of the paper this time as editor and owner. This he continued to be for just fourteen months, selling the paper to Charles A. Gardner on March 7th, 1904. Mr. Gardner continued in the lines laid down

by his predecessors and there was no change in the policy of the paper until December 1st 1904, when it again changed hands. For the policy of the paper since it passed out of Mr. Gardner's hands the present editor is responsible.

From the above it will be seen that during the first three years of this paper's existence it was edited by Mr. Reed for about six months by Mr. L. M. Holt for The Imperial Land company for about six months, and by Mr. Edgar F. Howe for about two years. From April 20th 1901 till Sept- 5th, 1904, the PRESS was the only paper published in the Imperial Valley. With these explanations, we are willing Brother Witters' reprimand should stand.

Elsewhere in our columns will be found an open letter from the Directors of Imperial Water Co. No. 5, addressed to their stockholders and containing much matter in which the people of the whole valley are interested. Last week Mr. Cory, the general manager of the California Development company sent the same people a circular letter, copy of which we published in our issue of May 12. These letters raise questions of great moment to the people interested as well as to many others, and we publish them as matters of news. It is not our purpose to discuss the merits of this controversy, but we do hope that out of it all will come a clearer statement and understanding of the rights of the water users of Imperial Water Co. No. 5. Such an outcome would be of much interest to all the people in this valley, for the contract for the delivery of water between the various corporations are practically the same in all cases. It follows that what can be done in one case can be done in the others, and therefore the proposition to annul and terminate the contract between the California Development company and Sociedad de Yrrigacion, and Imperial Water Co. No. 5, is a matter of vital moment to the stockholders of all the other water companies in the valley.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned citizen of the United States is in possession of the tract of land described as the SW¼ of Sec. 26, Tp 14, S, R, 14 E, S. B. M., according to the survey made in 1900 by the Imperial Land Co. and commonly known as the Imperial survey. The numbers properly describing this land is taken by other parties and applied to other lands two miles west and one-half mile south of the lands above described, but I hereby certify that there is no other claimant or occupant to said lands except myself. I further certify that I have been in possession of this land since March 30th, 1906, and that it is my bona fide intention to occupy and improve this land and to enter the same under the Desert Land Act as soon as the survey of the lands in Imperial Valley, provided for by the Act of Congress of July 1st, 1902, Statutes at Large, Vol. 32, part 1, page 728, is completed and the map of these lands filed in the United States Land Office at Los Angeles, Cal.

Signed, THOMAS TRACY.

Witness, ALBERT HEYDLOUFF,
Brawley, Cal., April 25th, 1906.
apr-28-m-19.

Watch this Space

Next Week

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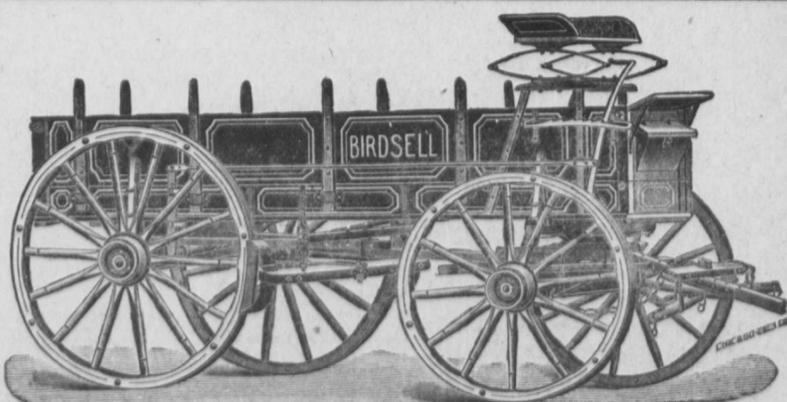
T. B. Blanchard, Agent

El Centro,

California

GOOD
on bad roads

Not bad
on good roads



J. Stanley Brown, El Centro, Cal.