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THE HOLTON POWER CO.

The most potent force that is now working for the development of the Imperial Valley is the Holton Power company. While the Southern Pacific railway company through its control of the California Development company has been spending considerable sums of money in endeavoring to control the Colorado river and regulate the amount of water coming to this Valley their efforts have been so meager as to be ineffective up to the present time. The outcome of their efforts to the present has tended to discourage rather than encourage the people of this Valley. In the midst of all these conditions the Holton Power company has carried on its work and the result is that to-day it is the greatest and most active force and is doing more than all other agencies toward the improvement of this Valley and the development of its industries. Its plans are laid to cover the entire Valley and its enterprises are so firmly established that its success is assured. With the means of producing electrical power in large amounts and at very little expense it follows that it can enter the industrial field to the very best advantage. It will furnish lights and power to all the industries of the Valley and will engage in many of them itself. The ice manufacturing business when conducted to advantage is known to be very profitable. The Holton Power company engages in this line of business in the most advantageous way. They will therefore be in position to supply the Valley with this commodity and at less prices than it can be supplied from any other source. This will be a great advantage to the Valley for the more nearly the things we need can be supplied to us by the home producers the better it will be for all. The success of the ice manufacturing enterprise will no doubt be followed by others. The plan of establishing a large beef and pork packing plant here at El Centro in connection with the ice business of the Holton Power company has been under contemplation for some time.

The item of freight to market is a very large one for the live animals and there are a number of economies that can be realized by slaughtering and packing the fat cattle and hogs raised in the Valley here at El Centro. The proposition is receiving attention and offers an attractive opening for business. In addition to that and other enterprises and industries that will spring up with the development of the Valley, the

growth of population and change that will come when the large grain ranches are cut up into twenty and forty acre tracts and devoted to intensive farming will furnish an enormous demand for electric transportation. Electric railway lines will span the Valley in all directions. Rapid transit for passengers and freight will bring all parts of the Valley into close touch. The Holton

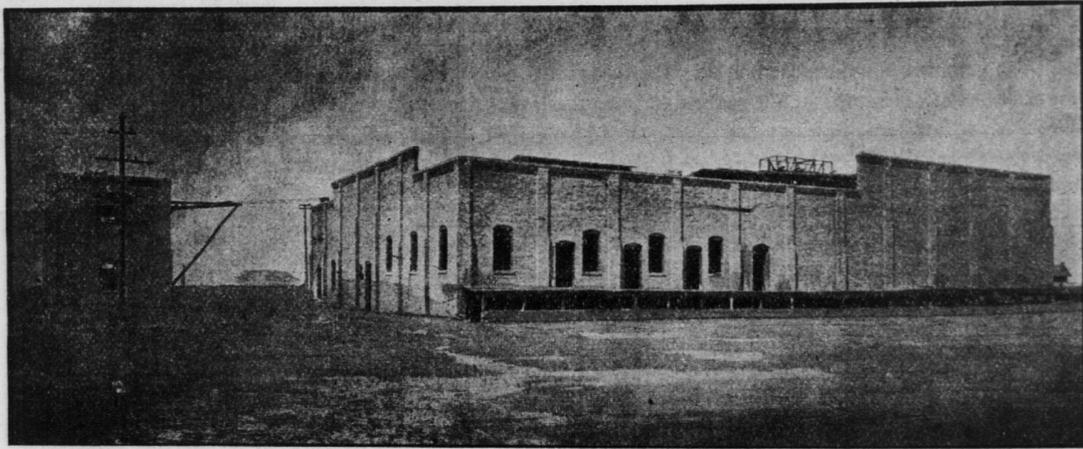
the changes that have taken place within the past five years. How much more wonderful will the changes of the next five years be. Then electric railways will thread the Valley and rapid transit will bring all parts of it into close relation. Its population will be more than quadrupled and its production of wealth multiplied many fold. And the one corporation that will lead in this

ed was put to beneficial use and made appurtenant to the lands on which it was applied. The government also proposed to supervise the construction of the structures that should be installed as headgates to control the diversion of the water from the river. In fact, what the government proposed to do was nothing less than to protect the interests of the settler and secure the development

But the United States made no protest, taking the position that the diversion of the water under the terms of the concession would not injuriously affect the interests of the government while its diversion would supply the people of this Valley with water. Nothing but disaster however, has followed the cutting of the river bank in Mexico and as a result enormous damage has been done, hundreds of square miles of American territory is transformed into an inland sea. A very large industry has been wiped out. The Southern Pacific railroad company has been compelled to build nearly 100 miles of new track and their main line is still endangered for a distance of 40 miles, being only a few feet above the encroaching waves. In addition to this a very large amount of damage has been done in the Imperial Valley. Several thousand acres of farming lands have been washed away and other thousands of acres ruined by deep gullies as a result of the floods that have been discharged into this Valley as a result of cutting the river in Mexico. The large channel eroded in the loose, alluvial soil has reached the main channel and lowered its bed at Yuma. Unless the break is repaired and the river restored to its old course to the Gulf within the present season, the lowering of its bottom will undermine the Laguna dam and destroy the United States reclamation project at Yuma. Mexico is responsible for this condition of affairs for it has all come about through the negligence of her officials.

The California Development company is required by the concession to pay to the Mexican government \$300 per month for a government engineer to supervise the taking of the water out of the Colorado river. We are informed that this payment has been made by the company, but that the engineer has not been supplied. If this is true the blame attaches to Mexico all the more. The United States Reclamation Service has already investigated and reported on the Lower Colorado river situation and they recommend that a right of way be secured from Mexico for a canal and that the work of controlling the river be taken up by Uncle Sam. As the break is in Mexico the Reclamation Service cannot enter to undertake the work and the Southern Pacific is rushing men and materials to the scene and no doubt doing all that the government could do even if they had a right of way. It is reported that the government will co-operate with the railroad company in every way they can in the work in hand. This guarantees that the break will be dammed and the river swung back to its old channel just as soon as possible. Meantime the transfer of Lower California to the United States as the only logical solution of the Colorado river problem can receive the attention of the two governments.

Mexico in a sense is the aggressor in this matter. She granted a concession in violation of the treaty rights of the United States and at a time when such concession acted only to complicate the questions involved in the Lower Colorado problem. The spirit in which the concession was sought and granted was not one of friendliness to the United States. This fact places Mexico in a position where she must make amends for her breach of good will. The proper thing will be for her to cede the United States her territory of Lower California.



ICE AND COLD STORAGE PLANT AT EL CENTRO. HOLTON POWER COMPANY

Power company is already prepared to enter the field at the first moment such an enterprise is needed. With very large facilities for increasing their production of power they will be able to construct and operate such roads in a very advantageous manner and they expect to begin building them just as soon as there is an assurance of their being needed. In fact, the Holton Power company will pioneer in that enterprise in the "same" way they have pioneered in the others. In the past they have not only anticipated the wants of the people but have loaned money and furnished the people the means to get into the lines of production which would demand the things produced. This is well illustrated by the cantaloupe growing industry at Holtville and El Centro, where the farmers have been helped and encouraged in every way by Mr. Holt and the Holton Power company. Just so will it be with the construction of electric railways. As soon as they are needed or a sufficiently large number of people in any community not already supplied with transportation facilities engage in or prepare to engage in a line of production that will justify the construction of a line, the line will be built and operated.

We, who have gone through the pioneer stages of the Valley's development, can hardly realize

work as it is leading now is the Holton Power company.

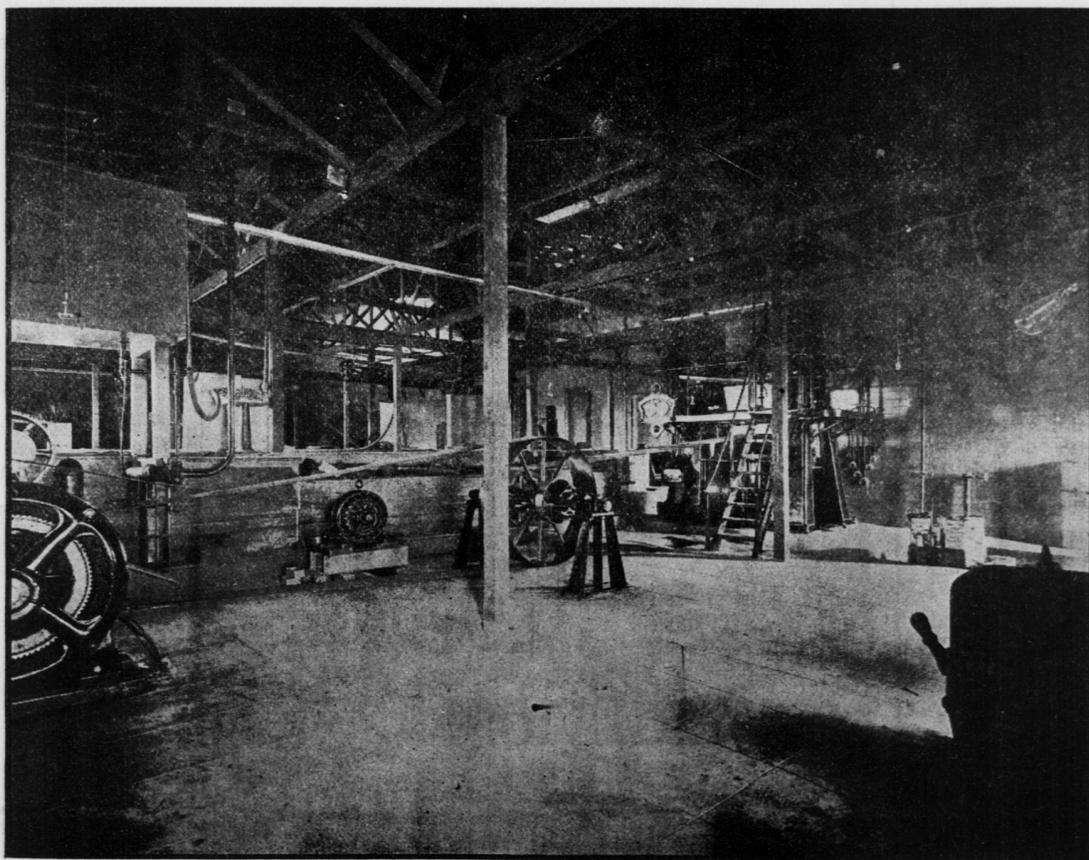
THE ACQUISITION OF LOWER CALIFORNIA

The proposition that the United States shall acquire the peninsula of Lower California has been advanced a number of times and on various occasions in the past, but it has always been on the basis that it joined us or was valuable for minerals and contained rich agricultural lands. Such a proposition put forth on such a basis would naturally lack the merit to give it honor and standing and consequently could neither be advanced by the United States nor considered by the Republic of Mexico. But since the problems connected with the use of the waters of the Colorado river for irrigation have taken the course they have the matter of acquiring Lower California has assumed an entirely different shape. It will be remembered that the government of the United States, both through its administrative departments and by congressional action specifically refused to grant the claim of the California Development company to a monopoly of the waters of the Colorado river. There was no objection offered by the government to the diversion of the waters of the river and their use for irrigation, so long as the water thus divert-

of the country tributary to the Lower Colorado on safe lines.

But this measure of control over their operations did not suit the management of the California Development company, so Mr. Heber went to Mexico, where on May 17th, 1904, he received a most sweeping concession from the Mexican government to the waters of the Colorado river. By this grant the California Development company through its Mexican company was authorized to take from the river 10,000 cubic feet of water per second and of this amount they were authorized to deliver at least one half in the United States, being obligated to deliver the remainder in Mexico at such rates as the Mexican government should fix.

This concession was really more advantageous to the California Development company and placed them in a stronger position so far as the ownership of the water is concerned, than they would have been had congress passed the Daniel's bill. And the advantage of operating in a foreign country was also very great. The granting of this concession to tap the river was a violation of the treaty between the United States and Mexico, which provides that neither nation shall do anything or permit anything done to a river forming an international boundary unless with the consent of the other nation.



MACHINERY ROOM OF THE ICE PLANT AT EL CENTRO