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EL CENTRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enthusiastic Meeting Forms Strong Organization for Furthering Interests of Town and Vicinity.

Business Men, Dairymen and Farmers Combine For Active Effort. By-Laws Adopted, Directors Elected and Officers Chosen. Large and Rapidly Increasing Membership

The El Centro Chamber of Commerce was organized on last Monday afternoon, July 30th. Under the cool verandahs of the Hotel El Centro, there gathered at that time a large number of the friends of El Centro.

These men came together for one purpose only, and that purpose was to organize in the most effective manner possible for furthering the interests of the town and the people of its vicinity.

The meeting was duly called to order and the minutes of the informal meeting which was held on July 17th, was read and approved by the meeting. The report of the committee on Constitution and By-Laws was then called for, and was presented by the chairman of the committee, Mr. T. B. Blanchard. The report was first read as a whole, and then read, discussed and adopted, section by section. Throughout the discussion of the by-laws the members took a very active interest, many changes being made to strengthen the organization, everyone present showing a most enthusiastic interest in its welfare. In this way, the proposition to fix the initiation at \$1 was voted down and the fee fixed at \$5 by a practically unanimous vote.

After the adoption of the by-laws the members proceeded to the election of a Board of Directors to serve until the first annual meeting which will occur on the first Tuesday in October. This was done by each member taking a slip of paper and writing thereon the names of the eleven members he preferred for directors. Twenty-three men were voted for, and of this number the following named received the highest number of votes and were therefore elected to serve as directors of the Chamber of Commerce till the first Tuesday in October, or until their successors are elected, to wit:

J. Stanley Brown,
D. H. Chaplin,
Ira Aten,
F. G. Havens,
Roy L. Rumsey,
T. B. Blanchard,
E. E. Forrester,
W. E. Wilsie,
W. A. Van Horn,
F. S. Webster,
A. D. Medhurst.

The board of directors afterwards organized by the following selection of officers:

W. F. Holt, Honorary President.
J. Stanley Brown, President,
Ira Aten, Vice President,
D. H. Chaplin, Secretary and Treasurer.

The following named gentlemen form the charter membership roll of the organization:

D. H. Chaplin, W. E. Wilsie, F. G.

Havens, J. C. Blackinton, Durward Johnson, Murray A. Stover, A. D. Medhurst, S. T. Richardson, J. Stanley Brown, L. E. Cooley, Roy L. Rumsey, H. R. Kyle, T. B. Blanchard, U. S. Handley, H. E. Hawes, W. E. Downing, W. F. Holt, Ira Aten, Arthur Shepherd, T. W. Davies, I. Mayfield, W. A. Van Horn, E. E. Forrester, J. M. Fowlkes, W. P. Hamilton, J. A. Mixer, F. S. Webster, I. E. Casner, Daniel Webster, True Vencill, G. W. Nichols, W. W. Masten.

This gives the organization 32 members to start with and insures it a much larger membership in the very near future.

When we consider the fact that this is the very dullest part of the dull season in our valley, and also the hottest part of the hot season, and, further, that everybody has gone to the coast who could get away, it is remarkable that so large, or so enthusiastic, a meeting could be held for any purpose, no matter how much the people might be interested.

The great success of this meeting and the large turnout of farmers and dairymen who attended and took part in it and in the organization which it formed, is an earnest of the high appreciation in which El Centro is held by the people of its vicinity and bespeaks the strong support the town is receiving from the citizens of this part of the valley. This is a happy omen of the great future that is in store for El Centro and the era of abounding prosperity which is at hand in this valley.

The union of the people of the town and country for the upbuilding of the valley is the consummation for which we have striven, and the realization of which we rejoice to see.

Following is the by-laws and constitution of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this organization shall be the El Centro Chamber of Commerce.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTS.

The objects of this organization shall be to foster and encourage commerce, manufacturing, horticulture and agriculture, to promote the construction and maintenance of good roads, the improving and beautifying of streets and parks, the passing of beneficial laws in city, county and state, to obtain the best possible railroad facilities, both passenger and freight, to attract immigration and to generally advertise and promote the welfare of El Centro and vicinity.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. Members shall be any reputable person acceptable to the board of directors.

Sec. 2. Members may be expelled upon recommendation of the member-

ship and grievance committee for misconduct before or after joining. All charges must be in writing and be sent to the membership and grievance committee. The accused shall be given a hearing and it shall require a two thirds vote of the entire board of directors to expel.

ARTICLE IV. DUES.

The dues of this organization shall be five dollars initiation fee and \$1.25 per quarter in advance and the fiscal year carried by such dues shall end October 1st of each year.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. The meetings of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce shall be annual and special.

Sec. 2. The annual meetings shall be held on the first Tuesday in October of each year. Notice of same shall be given by publication in not less than two issues of a paper or papers and by mailing a postal card stating the time and place of said meeting to each member.

Sec. 3. The special meetings shall be called by the presiding officer or upon the application of five members, whereof due notice shall be given by the secretary in a paper at least five days previous to the meeting. Only such business as is stated in the call can be transacted at a special meeting.

Sec. 4. The presence of seven members in good standing shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but the chamber of commerce shall not give its final or formal endorsement to any proposition, enterprise or undertaking unless two thirds of all the members present vote for the measure nor shall any resolutions be considered or acted upon except with the unanimous consent of the members present unless they have first been submitted to a proper committee.

Sec. 5. The order of business at the meetings of the chamber of commerce shall be as follows:

- 1st. Reading of minutes.
- 2nd. Report of president.
- 3rd. Report of secretary.
- 4th. Report of treasurer.
- 5th. Reports of standing committees.
- 6th. Reports of special committees.
- 7th. Unfinished business.
- 8th. New business.

ARTICLE VI. INDEBTEDNESS AND LIABILITY.

No money shall be appropriated or disbursed by the board of directors unless the amount is at that time in the general fund of the association and no assessment shall be levied upon any member for any purpose and no liability shall exist against any member of the association beyond the yearly dues provided by these by-laws.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS.

Sec. 1. Elections for directors shall be held at the annual meeting in October of each year.

Sec. 2. All members in good standing shall have the right to vote.

ARTICLE VIII. DIRECTORS.

Sec. 1. A board of eleven directors shall be the governing body of this organization and shall have and execute general control and management of its affairs.

Sec. 2. Directors shall serve one year from the time of their election except those first elected, who shall serve until the annual meeting in October, 1906. After that those elected shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 3. Three directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 4. Regular meetings of the directors shall be held once each month

and special meetings may be held by the presiding officer or at the request of three members of the board of directors, due notice to be given in writing or in person by the president or secretary at least three days before the meeting.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS.

The directors shall elect from among their number a president, a vice president and a treasurer. An honorary president and a secretary shall also be elected but these may or may not be members of the board of directors.

ARTICLE X. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. The president shall preside over the meetings of the chamber of commerce and of the directors, shall decide all points of order, give the casting vote in case of a tie, make an annual report in October of each year, appoint all committees and perform all other duties incident to that office.

Sec. 2. In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall preside and perform all duties appertaining to the office of president.

Sec. 3. The treasurer shall receive and keep in his custody the funds of the chamber of commerce, paying same out only on warrants of the president, countersigned by the secretary, and shall report at each annual meetings and at such other times as the directors may require, the state of the treasury.

Sec. 4. The secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the chamber of commerce and under the direction of the board of directors shall have charge of the furniture, rooms, books and other property of said association. He shall collect, collate and arrange statistical and other information for the use of the chamber of commerce, conduct its correspondence and act as clerk of the board of directors. He shall collect the fees and dues of the members and other debts due the chamber of commerce, account for the same and turn all funds over to the

treasurer of the general fund, taking his receipt therefor. He shall make a financial report at each meeting of the board of directors. He shall receive such compensation as may from time to time be fixed by the board of directors.

ARTICLE XI. COMPENSATION.

No officer of the chamber of commerce shall receive any compensation whatever except the secretary.

ARTICLE XII. EXPENDITURES.

All expenditures of money shall be authorized by the board of directors or by the ways and means committee, subject to the approval of the board of directors.

ARTICLE XIII. COMMITTEES.

Sec. 1. The regular committees shall be the following, with such others as may from time to time be authorized by the board of directors:

Lands, irrigation, horticulture and agriculture.

Ways and means.

Health and sanitation.

Advertising and statistics.

Membership and grievances.

Parks, roads and improvements.

Reception and entertainment.

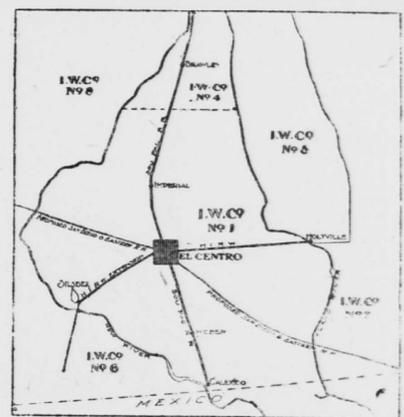
Miscellaneous subjects.

Sec. 2. All committees shall consist of not less than three members except the committee on ways and means which shall have five members.

Sec. 3. Duties of committees. It shall be the duty of the several standing committees to take charge of all business referred to them by the board of directors, the chamber of commerce or its presiding officer, to carefully and industriously investigate the different subjects assigned to them or pertaining to their duties, to make such original investigation in their several lines as in their judgment they may see fit and report the same to the board of directors.

Sec. 4. No report or the result thereof shall be given out by the com-

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