

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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## CUTTING BACK IN MEXICO

### Investigating Party Finds Flood Waters Cutting Channels from New River to Alamo

Careful Examination Disposes of Fear that Valley's Water Supply Will be Interfered With. Only Cutting Back 300 Feet Per Day and Can Be Stopped

Thursday morning of last week Messrs. Ed. Forrester, W. A. VanHorn and Ira Aten left for a trip of inspection to the country along the Alamo channel in Mexico and to investigate the water course that flows from the Alamo to New river. They took the same route followed by the party which examined the same territory two or three weeks ago, going up over the mesa and following the north bank of the Alamo to a point beyond Beltran slough. From there they came down the river in a boat, examining the outlet at Beltran slough and noting conditions along the stream as they descended. Arriving at the place where the water divides and part of it goes to Sharp's heading and part goes to New river they stopped and made soundings of the two streams. These soundings were made with a pole 17 feet long. They found the stream flowing to Sharp's heading to be nine feet deep and about one hundred feet wide. The stream leading away to New river is about four hundred feet wide and was too deep for them to reach bottom with their seventeen foot pole. These figures show a rather bad state of affairs and one requiring attention very soon. It means simply that the stream carrying the water to waste is four times as wide and at least twice as deep as the stream bringing the water to Sharp's heading, where it can be turned into our canals and delivered to the farmers in the Valley.

This would indicate that when the water falls sufficiently it will all be carried by the channel going to New river and none would reach Sharp's heading for delivery to the farmers. This, of course, provided work be not done meantime to control the flow and keep up the water level so as to compel it to run in Alamo channel to Sharp's heading. After looking into conditions here as long as they deemed necessary the party left, going down the main channel across toward New river. As they went along they used the pole to measure the depth of the water. They found it to be seventeen feet and more for nearly a mile, when the channel widened very rapidly and the depth rapidly lessened to about nine or ten feet with the channel a quarter of a mile in width. At this point the channel appears to pass beyond a large red clay hill and spread out all over the country. Apparently it divided into three principal currents, one flowing off to the south and following close along the foot of the clay hill, another flowing rather northwesterly, while a third went almost due west. So they took the middle one thinking perhaps it was the main one and followed down it, taking measurements of the water at frequent intervals. When about five or six miles down they came to where the current got very much swifter and could hear a loud roaring. This they soon found was a great overpour, the entire volume of the water gathering into one place and cutting out a channel 300 to 400 feet wide.

Finding themselves caught in the rapids leading to this overpour they had the hardest kind of work to get out of them and keep from being swept over the falls. After an hour or more of the danger they reached slack water and safety. They were still a long ways from being out of there, however, and how to get home was the next question. It is impossible to row a boat upstream to the outlet from the Alamo and escape by that means was not to be thought of. It was equally impossible to go over the falls and continue the journey down the newly eroded channel, for no boat could live a moment in its seething torrent. Their only escape therefore lay in abandoning their boat and wading out through the soft slush of the newly drained area to dry land. This they did, after first dragging their boat out to a point where it is in no danger of being floated away. They found it was more than a mile that they had to wade through the mud and the mud was very nearly waist deep. They started on this trip at just 12 o'clock noon and arrived at dry land at two o'clock. They then had to walk about twelve miles to get to Packard where they could get a team to bring them home. It was eight o'clock Friday evening before they arrived at Packard and after midnight when they reached VanHorn's home.

Saturday they reported their experience and observations and on Saturday afternoon the president of Water Co. No. 1 took the train for Yuma to report the situation to Mr. Corey, of the California Development company.

On Monday last Mr. VanHorn, Mr. S. J. Ulrey and S. D. Yokem went up to make another investigation and to determine how fast the overpour is cutting back and what work to do in saving the water supply. It is realized that if this overpour should work back to the Alamo channel the entire water supply of the Valley would be carried away by it and none of the water companies receive any water. It is believed that the California Development company is having the situation looked into also and the suggestion is made of building a dam across the outlet at the clay hill in such a way as to turn the water all off to the south. However, until a careful examination of the entire situation is made it is not possible to formulate any plans. The latest reports from the Colorado river are that the railroad is completed and the pile drivers are at work on the trestle across the intake. Also that large forces of teams are at work digging the canal from the river into Hanlon's heading and from the heading down to the old canal. There is another large force of teams ready to begin the work of opening up the channel down the old river bed. This has got filled with silt and sand for a mile or two down from the intake and the opening of a passage through this filled in space will greatly help in turning the river and may be of great benefit should a sudden rise come in the river.

When Mr. Corey was informed of the conditions found by Messrs Van Horn, Aten and Forrester he at once dispatched Mr. E. H. Gaines down the river in a boat to make an investigation. Mr. Gaines arrived in Calexico Monday night, having come down the main channel to Beltran slough, where he left it and followed the slough. This brought him around the point where the overpour is located and he reports having found no serious conditions. However, as soon as he found that he had missed the real point of interest he and Mobley Meadows went back to make a thorough investigation of the entire overflowed territory.

Meadows had accompanied the party, consisting of Ulrey, VanHorn and Yokem which went up to the overpour Monday and had just returned to Calexico on Tuesday evening. His report is that the party above named had investigated the situation at the overpour and that all agreed that it would take two months for it to cut back to the Alamo channel and interfere with our water supply. This party took instruments with them and will run levels and see what is necessary to be done in order to protect the Alamo channel from being cut into by this overpour. The fact that this cut has at least five miles yet to go before it will interfere with our water supply and the further fact that only a part of the water is reaching it while a much larger volume is going around by Beltran and Garza slough is very reassuring. It shows that this overpour cannot cut back very fast and also leads to the belief that much of this water can be turned away from it and that its cutting back can be controlled. It is believed that if it can be kept from reaching the Alamo channel for 60 days all will be safe, for the reports indicate that the work at the intake will be so far progressed that the water can be turned down the old channel by that time. The gage readings at Yuma stand at about 20 feet, which is very close to 25,000 cubic feet per second. Of course this is quite a river and as none of it is leaving the channel either down the old river bed or at Quail river cut off it is practically all being poured across the country from Alamo to New river. The course of affairs in that locality will be watched with interest and also it will no doubt receive much closer attention than it has heretofore. The water in Salton Sea continues to rise but more slowly, the water level not having gained much more than one foot during the past week. It is crowding the right of way, however, and acts as a perpetual reminder to the Southern Pacific that the water must be shut off just as soon as possible and that sixty days is the limit. With a sixty day limit on keeping the main line above water and a sixty day limit on the channel cutting back to the Alamo and interfering with our water supply, it is quite evident that a supreme effort will be made to put the Colorado river under control within that time. With the preparations already made and the facilities at hand we feel sure it will be done. The situation between Alamo and New river will be watched and the Valley's water supply protected. A little well directed work will make everything safe beyond the time when the Colorado river will be dammed off and the amount of water coming to our Valley under control. It is quite fortunate that Messrs. Aten, VanHorn and Forrester made their trip of investigation. The source of possible danger they discovered can be controlled plenty long enough for the work at the Colorado river to cure the whole trouble.

### That Sale Rumor

The rumor that a syndicate of Los Angeles capitalists had bought out the holdings of the Holton Power company and the property of the Imperial Land company in this Valley was industriously circulated in the Valley last week and later was sent to the Los Angeles and San Diego papers. This report has been denied by Mr. Holt, who states, however, that such a deal was proposed several months ago and the price for his property agreed upon, but that no deal has been closed and no money had been paid. Most of these rumors have emanated from Imperial Land company sources and it is easy to see why. They are anxious for the deal to go through, as they are keen to sell. With the Holton Power company however, the case is different. Mr. Holt and his associates have the most valuable property in the Valley and its best franchises. They are abundantly able to develop them and perfect the enterprises they have begun. They therefore are not anxious to sell. The following from the Los Angeles Times of August 8th fairly states the situation:

It is not true that W. F. Holt or the Imperial Land company or any other person or company, has sold to a syndicate represented by G. A. Parkyns or any other syndicate represented by any other person, all their holdings in the townsites of Heber, Calexico, Imperial, Brawley, etc., or any part of their holdings in these townsites or any other townsites, with or without electric power plant, at Holtville or elsewhere, or the ice plant at El Centro, or any other ice plant at any other place, or any kind of plant there or elsewhere, for a sum representing \$1,000,000, or any other sum representing any other figures.

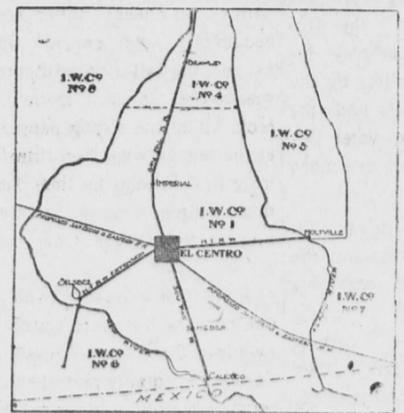
For some time G. A. Parkyns of the Merchants' Trust Company, on Broadway, has been carrying on negotiations with the Imperial Land company and others holding about 7000

acres of land, all under United States patent, and therefore with perfect title, in the Imperial country, looking toward the purchase of their holdings, together with all the appurtenances. The sum of money talked between the parties to this deal is \$1,000,000, but the whole proposition is still in embryo. There has been no definite conclusion reached about it in any way, shape or manner. The deal may go through—probably will—but it is possible that it may fail to go through at all.

In conversation with parties who have spent some time at the Imperial heading we learned something of the excellent plans on which the work is proceeding and especially of the splendid manner in which Mr. Cory has his forces organized. He has the camp laid out in military order and policed thoroughly. Everyone is provided with quite comfortable quarters and are required to keep them clean. The cook house is their especial pride, no food being served unless it is properly cooked, nor cooked unless it is in first class condition. No disorder is permitted anywhere and every man is made to feel an interest in the work by the interest taken in him by his employers. The men are responding splendidly to this kind of treatment and despite the hot weather are turning off an immense amount of work. With such treatment for his employees Mr. Cory will have no trouble in getting all the help he needs and thus supplied will be able to cope with the Colorado river in the very shortest time possible. Sixty days should see everything safe.

If you don't find what you want advertised in the paper Bert R. Chaplin can dig it up for you.

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