

A COMMUNICATION

Miss Charlott Preston Explains Why She Put in a Damage Claim Against Mexico

To the settlers of the Imperial Valley who have damage claims against Mexico, beware!

The great hue and cry set up by the Standard last week is only a bluff from the party who has controlling interest in that paper. I heard some of the same kind of talk less than two weeks ago from one of his henchmen in Los Angeles and was not surprised when I saw the article in last Friday's issue of the Standard.

The paper is only a mouth piece for the Colony Investment company and ex-officials of the C. D. company. These people are afraid that the final settlement between the United States and the Mexican government may not be conducive to their welfare or interests, so they have fabricated this story about cancelling concessions and suspension of work on the part of the C. D. company to frighten the people and prevent, if possible, the filing of claims against the Mexican government. They don't want this question of water rights taken up by the government, lest it terminate in government ownership. They have too much land in the Valley for that. They are looking out now for their own interests and not the interests of the people. What care they for the poor settler who has lost his all? They would deprive him of his just rights at any time for their own selfish greed. The California Development company has always claimed and even published from time to time that they were not and could not be held legally responsible for damages caused by the flood waters of the Colorado. They have been even arrogant and defiant. Because they knew the poor settler would have to go into Mexico and fight them there if they were to seek redress through the courts.

Now when they find that we have gone to a higher power than the courts for an adjustment of our damages they have set up a howl intended to bluff the people and prevent, if possible, these claims from being pushed, knowing that the Mexican government will demand that the C. D. company pay for every dollar of damage done to the people of both nations or forfeit their concessions. This is where the rub comes in and has caused them to howl.

This talk of the Standard about Mexican favors is all contemptible nonsense. The favor if such you may call it was granted to the C. D. company, not to the settler.

The Standard's claim that the C. D. company will settle for all damages is all a myth and not to be considered by any intelligent person. The C. D. company has no intention of paying out the full value of their claims. They will follow the practices of the railroad corporations, namely; buy off their victims as cheaply as possible. Any old way to prevent them from getting their just dues.

Now, fellow sufferers, I beg of you not to be deluded nor swerved from your course by a bluffing newspaper nor the crowd that controls it. Stand for your rights and you will get them. You need not look to the C. D. company for recompense for your losses, for it is not more than three months since the treasurer of that company in Los Angeles told me that they were not responsible for any damages sustained by the settlers and even threatened suit for back payments on water stock. When I told him we would stand together and bring suit for damages. He said, "go ahead, we would rather fight you as a whole than individually."

The Standard tried to strengthen their bluff by quoting a certain lawyer.

I claim that the secretary of state is higher authority on the damage question than that quoted by the Stand-

ard. Last spring I wrote to the secretary of state and asked who was responsible for the damages sustained by the settlers in Imperial Valley. I in a short time received a letter from the secretary of state saying that my letter had been referred to the secretary of the interior for investigation. A month later I received another letter from the secretary of state saying that the secretary of the interior had reported back to them that the responsibility rested upon Mexico, as it was by the authority of that government the intake was made and that I had a claim against them for damages. Now I shall file my claim with the secretary of state I feel perfectly safe in placing my claim in the hands of our government. Uncle Sam is amply able to take care of the interests of his people. What if Mexico did withdraw their concessions from the C. D. company? For my part I feel that it would be a benefit rather than a detriment to the Valley. I have considerable investments there and besides own 200 shares of water stock, yet I am not in the least alarmed about not getting water. I know that our government will not stand by and see us suffer when it owns and will soon control the waters of the Colorado.

You may all rest assured that this international question of water rights will be amicably settled and settled satisfactorily to all concerned.

Furthermore the California Development company will continue to furnish us water till it is settled. They won't dare to do otherwise. Neither will the Mexican government cancel her concessions until this matter is thoroughly investigated and due consideration given by the government of both nations. Any intelligent person knows this.

The Standard's attack on the reclamation service is ill timed and out of place. The reclamation service is the real friends of the people and because they are opposed to greedy corporations owning and controlling the irrigating systems they are attacked by such blindly prejudiced newspapers as the Standard.

The article in last Friday's issue of the Standard will do more to damage the present prospects of the Valley than the filing of claims against the Mexican government. We think the people of the Valley would better look after the Standard and see to it that no more such articles appear and leave the sufferers from floods to look after themselves. We protest against any interference in our affairs. But we believe the people in the Valley know the outfit that own and control the Standard well enough to take such bluffs for what they are worth. Again I repeat, file your claims and stand for your rights.

Yours in sympathy,
C. M. PRESTON.

Letters Received By Miss Preston From the Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, March 24, 1906.
C. M. PRESTON, Esquire,
Imperial, California.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, complaining that your farm in Imperial Valley, California, has been ruined and your crops destroyed through the negligence and carelessness of the California Development company in allowing the flood waters of the Colorado river to come down the New river. You ask who is responsible for the losses and damages sustained by yourself and the other settlers in Imperial Valley.

In reply I have to inform you that a copy of your letter has been sent to the secretary of the interior for his consideration.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
ALVEY A. ADEE,
Second Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, April 19, 1906.
C. M. PRESTON, Esquire,
Imperial, California.

SIR: Referring to the department's letter of the 24th ultimo, in answer to yours of the 10th ultimo, complaining that your farm in Imperial Valley, California, has been ruined and your crops destroyed through the negligence and carelessness of the California Development company in allowing the flood waters of the Colorado river to come down the New river. I have now to inform you that the secretary of the interior has sent to this department under date of the 11th instant a copy of a report on the subject from the director of the geological survey.

The substance of the report is that the damage in Imperial valley resulting from floods in the Colorado river is caused principally by operations in Mexico which were sanctioned by the Mexican government and that these may be possibly ground for a claim for damages against that government and that, owing to the circumstances peculiar to your case, you may also have a claim against the California Development company although the director is not informed, as he says, as to the details of this particular instance.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
ROBERT BACON,
Assistant Secretary.

A Snap

160 acres soft land 2 1-2 miles from Holtville, all graded, 80 acres been in barley, final proof made; price \$30 per acre: \$2000 down, balance 1 and 2 years at 7 per cent.

Ed. E. Boyd, Holtville, Cal.
s-29-tf

Notice to the Public

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, a citizen of the United States has taken possession of and now occupies the tract of land described as the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 35, and W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 36, Tp. 14, S. R. 14 East, S. B. M., according to the survey of these lands made in 1900, by the Sunset Commercial Company and commonly called Bothwell survey. This land is unoccupied and unclaimed by anyone except the undersigned and is at present in the same condition as unsurveyed public lands, as the numbers properly describing them have been used by other parties and applied to other lands in making entry thereon. And I hereby certify that it is my bonafide intention to occupy and improve the land herein claimed and to file on the said land according to the United States land laws as soon as the survey now being made shall be completed and the map properly describing said land is filed in the United States land office and the lands opened for entry.

Signed, GEORGE E. SCOTT.
Witness: E. STURGILL.
Dated at Brawley, Calif., Nov. 22, 1906
d-1-d-22

Notice of Assessment

IMPERIAL WATER COMPANY
NO. 7, location of principal place of business at Holtville, County of San Diego, State of California.

Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Imperial Water Company No. 7, held on the 10th day of November, 1906, an assessment (No.7) of fifty cents (50c) per share was levied upon the subscribed capital stock of the corporation, payable immediately to J. N. Patton, secretary of said corporation, at Holtville, County of San Diego, State of California.

Any stock upon which this assessment shall remain unpaid on the 11th day of December, 1906, shall be delinquent and will be advertised for sale at public auction and unless payment is made before will be sold at the office of the company at Holtville, California, on Monday, the 31st day of December, 1906, at 10:30 o'clock a. m., to pay the delinquent assessment, together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

I. N. PATTON, Secretary.
n-17-d-8 Holtville, Cal.

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