

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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## GREAT CANAL EXTENSION

### California Development Company's Work of Restoration Being Carried Forward on Enormous Scale

Operations Now Under Way Will Add More than 50,000 Acres to reclaimed Area in Imperial Valley and Protect 150,000 Acres in Mexico

The day of great things has come for the Imperial Valley and men of large brains are now at the helm. This is coming more and more apparent everyday as the splendid plans of Mr. Randolph and Mr. Cory are unfolded. For nearly a year all the energies of the men and the resources at their command in this Valley were engaged in the work of saving the Valley from destruction as much as possible and in curbing the Colorado river. When the great floods came last May and June it was nothing but the money men these gentlemen commanded prevented that mighty rush of water from overflowing the levees along the main canal and destroying the fertile and populous districts of number six and number four. But for their irreparable damage would have been done in Imperial Valley even if the levee should have been shut off at a date. The people of these water companies and of the Valley generally will remember the great service rendered them by Mr. Cory and Mr. Randolph at that time. After the flow of the Colorado declined to the point of the work of shutting the intake to be taken up we all remember the wonderful vigor with which it was carried. The picked men from the Northern Pacific system were sent and sent there in force, too. The work to do was to build a railroad intake. This was entrusted to Jack Carillo, who has proven himself to be as good if not the best construction engineer for that kind of work to be found in either the United States or Mexico. In the building of the railroad and the subsequent operation during the sharp crisis which followed from time to time when extraordinary service was required of the force of track Jack Carillo proved himself the man for the place and "good" on every occasion. Then came the building of the dam at the intake. Where could the help of Tom Hind have been found? It was the same way all down the line. It was not only necessary that Mr. Randolph and Mr. Cory should have the mighty resources of the Northern Pacific system at their command. There are millions of men who could have failed had they had the command of these great resources that brought them victory over the treacherous and malevolent Colorado. It was the ability to organize great forces to put the right man in the right place and to pick the right place that brought victory. It was not enough to find Tom Hind to put him in charge over the construction of the dam, but it was also necessary to have Jack Carillo to get all the work possible and a little more out of the railroad or Hind wouldn't have finished with rock fast enough in the two weeks that followed the

destruction of the Rockwood gate. But the right men were in the right place all the way through beginning with Mr. Randolph and coming right down the line to the last Indian in the brush cutter squad. Well, that great and memorable contest between the genius of man and the caprice of nature is to be properly celebrated at our sister towns of Calexico and Mexicali about the middle of next month and no doubt on that occasion the people of this Valley will give proper expressions to their feelings on the subject.

The final closure of the intake as is well known took place on November 5th. While the great contest was in progress and in fact for practically the entire time since the management of Valley affairs passed into the hands of Mr. Cory very little attention had been given to water company matters. Mr. Cory realized that the Colorado river must be controlled or there would be no water company affairs to administer. So naturally these matters were deferred until the river was gotten under complete subjection. But at all times while the great work of leveeing against the water here in the Valley and the greater work of shutting up the intake was in progress, whenever the Valley was mentioned both Mr. Randolph and Mr. Cory pledged themselves to give the people of the Valley a square deal and to deliver to them what they had bought from the California Development company and had paid for. To the people of Imperial Water company No. 1 and No. 4, as well as to No. 5 and No. 7 this did not mean so much as it did to the people of water company No. 6 and No. 8. The first named companies have not suffered any considerable damage to their irrigation systems nor water supplies, so these promises could not mean very much to them. But to No. 6 and No. 8 they were of the very greatest importance. Both these companies had suffered very severely from the floods and the erosion of New river channel. In the case of water company No. 8 their headworks were destroyed and irrigation made impossible. In No. 6 the canal system was wrecked and irrigation rendered just about as impossible as in number 8. This was the condition when Mr. Cory returned from the conquest of the Colorado river and established his headquarters at Calexico, about three weeks ago. Naturally Mr. Cory was very much out of touch with Valley affairs, as he had not given them a thought for about ninety days. But he took hold of our problems with his characteristic energy and directness. He saw that number six and number eight were "down and out" until a canal could be built to carry water to them. So he at once sent engineers into the field to locate the best route for such a canal as would be needed and also opened communication with contracting firms

for the work of excavating the canal. Not a moment has been lost on either of these matters and now it is announced that a route has been chosen for the canal and plans laid of a more ambitious scope than has ever previously been undertaken in this Valley. This canal will tap the present channel of the Alamo river at a point near the outlet of Beltran slough. This is about 50 feet above sea level and is really higher than the lowest point in the divide between this Valley and the Gulf of California. From this point the canal will pass above the deep cuts and sloughs that were eroded by the flood waters last summer and which came so near cutting this Valley off from a water supply and will cross the channel of New river above the big cut in that channel. This will avoid expensive work, as only a short flume will be necessary. As the canal will start from such a high elevation and will only need to have a fall of about two or three feet to the mile it will be seen that it will cover a very much larger area in both number six and number eight than has ever been under canal before. This canal will skirt the sand dunes on the west side of the Valley and will no doubt carry water as high as it can be carried from the California Development company's canals. This canal will be from 35 to 40 miles long and will carry more than 50,000 miners inches of water. The final estimates are not all figured yet but it is known that there will be close to a quarter of a million yards of dirt to move in its excavation. Mr. Cory is very anxious to have the canal dug just as soon as possible and will no doubt let it out in contracts large or small, just so they will get to work and dig it at once. It is expected that both Shattuck and Desmond and Peasley and Perry will have contracts and it is expected to have the canal ready for service by the 15th of next February. Mr. Beach has been out among the farmers trying to pledge all the teams possible for work on this ditch and has met with a hearty response. The people of number one and number four who were fortunate enough to escape damage or injury from the floods last summer realize that now is the time for them to show their sympathy for their less fortunate neighbors in No. 6 and No. 8. And the way to do this in the most effective manner is to join in and help restore their canal system in time for them to raise crops the coming year. The further fact that this canal is being built on just about as high ground as water can be carried on that side of the Valley and is being constructed large enough to carry water for all the lands on that side of New river indicates that the present owners of the California Development company are going promptly ahead with their great plans for the development of this Valley. This canal will supply water to all the lands west of New river out to the sand dunes and will add about 10,000 acres to Imperial Water company No. 8. It will make it possible for the land owners around what was Pelican lake and Badger lake to secure a water supply and join in the prosperity and development of this great Valley. Constructed as this canal will be it will have no weak places. It will cross no high flumes, its headgates cannot be carried away nor will it cross any gulches or canyons carrying drainage to interfere. With the completion of this ditch more than 50,000 acres will be added to the cultivated area in this Valley on this side of the line alone besides a large area south of the line in Mexico. This

canal is the largest that has ever been dug in this system for its length and will be one of the most important in the Valley. Its construction at this time is most fortunate indeed and will result in the complete restoration of those communities at a very early date. Many of the farmers and settlers in that part of the Valley who felt they had been ruined by the floods will find themselves able to sell their land for more than they could have gotten for it before the floods came. There will inevitably be a big scramble for land west of the New river, as it is very fine land and presents about the last chance for cheap lands that is left in the Valley. The far-seeing sagacity displayed by Mr. Randolph and Mr. Cory in their management of the work of closing the Colorado is most clearly shown in this instance. With the furthering of these canal plans a reorganization plan for Imperial Water company No. 8 has been elaborated and practically agreed upon. This plan does away with the bonds and makes every settler independent of every other settler so far as his purchase of water stock and the payments he is to make are concerned. This puts No. 8 on its feet and now that wonderfully rich and productive district will quickly settle up and will again take its place as a garden spot of Imperial Valley. And this great canal work and the rehabilitation of these two water companies and the addition of 50,000 more fertile acres to the productive area of our Valley are not all the plans Mr. Cory has put on foot during the three weeks that have elapsed since he returned to the Valley from the Mexican intake. A plan has been advanced to continue the levee from the Hind dam along the water courses of the Colorado and Paredones rivers to the foot of Black mountains, a distance of about thirty miles and it is now given out that this work will be done this winter and be completed before there is any danger of high water next summer. The construction of this levee will save about 150,000 acres of the rich delta lands below the line from annual overflow and will render it absolutely safe for farming. This levee will also dam the outlet from Volcano lake into New river and will forever put an end to the annual overflows that used to come down New river channel from that source. This levee in fact will confine the flood waters of the Colorado to the swampy stretches and tule beds along that stream and the water courses of its present delta and Imperial Valley and a magnificent tract below the line will not be bothered with them any more.

And all of these things are put under way by Mr. Cory within three weeks after he got back to the Valley. Truly the day of great things has come for our Valley. And not only for our Valley, but for that part of Mexico just across the line to the south. For the first time in all the years that part of God's footstool will be safe from overflow and will be supplied with water under control and on demand. The work of building the railroad from Calexico to Yuma is already under way and will be rushed along like everything else that Colonel Randolph and Mr. Cory have charge over. No doubt these men already have in mind great plans for development below the line and we shall see settlement and improvement on an enormous scale within the next twelve months on the wonderfully fertile and extensive tract they are rendering safe from overflow by the thirty miles of levee they are building along the Colorado and Paredones rivers.

And just as the picked men were

sent to master the Colorado in order that the leadership be adequate for every demand, just so are the problems of the Imperial Valley being attacked. Jack Carillo has charge of the work of building the railroad from Calexico to Yuma, a work he is pre-eminently qualified to do. And Tom Hind is assistant general manager and next in command to Mr. Cory both in Mexico and in the United States. The time has passed away forever when places are held by "pull" in the California Development company. And with them have passed the days of cheap promises and heartburnings and disappointments. The days of great things are at hand for the day has come when the men who command great resources and do great things are at the head of valley affairs. The construction of the canal to water the lands in Mexico and west of New river including No. 6 and No. 8 is the largest canal undertaking ever launched in this Valley. And the levee work that is under way to protect the country below the line from overflow will bring into use and make available for settlement an area of at least 150,000 acres of wonderfully fertile land. In the face of these great operations it is absolutely certain that Imperial Valley is entering upon the greatest era of settlement and development that it has ever known. Work on both these undertakings will be rushed to the limit and especially will this be the case with the canal. It is expected that a new record in canal construction will be established and we have no doubt these expectations will be met. Tom Hind will have charge and we all know what he is capable of doing. The people of No. 6 and No. 8 can confidently plan to farm their ranches this season. The water will be ready for them in time to raise a crop. And a good crop raised under the new conditions which will obtain will add such a substantial increase to the value of their farms as will largely recoup the losses they may have sustained in the past. The good times have come in Imperial Valley. Let all get in step to the March of Progress.

Calvin and Byron Iams, of Holtville, passed through El Centro, Wednesday, on their way to their lands in Number Six. Byron Iams claims the ribbon for growing the best crop of old fashioned eastern corn that was produced in the valley this year. On the Chaplin ranch in No. 7 he has produced 60 bushels per acre and is ready to "show" anyone the "corn" if they will come out and see it.

It hasn't rained much in this valley as yet, but while it was falling it made some people pretty nervous. There was the unfinished roof on the bank building and the roofless opera house block to get wet. Also the great pile of freight on the railroad platform. However, not enough rain fell to do any damage.

Contractor Peterson completed the walls of both the opera house building and the bank block this week, so those buildings are completed so far as the brick work is concerned. He will now start laying brick on the ice plant and hopes to be able to get plenty of brick to keep going till it is completed.

The completion of repairs on the Inter Urban bridge at Holtville has placed El Centro builders in touch with their supply again and has made possible the speedy completion of the bank block and opera house building and the speedy construction of the ice plant.