

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

AND THE IMPERIAL PRESS

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## CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

### Large Attendance at the Exercises Here Christmas Eve

For weeks past the ladies and children of El Centro had been engaged in preparing for the Christmas event and earnestly and industriously did they labor that everyone anticipated an entertainment Christmas eve of unusual merit and from the expressions heard it would seem that everything exceeded even the anticipations.

The exercises were held in the large and spacious hall in the Bank building, where seats had been provided for a large gathering, but the crowd grew and grew until room for more seats had been exhausted and standing room was even scarce. The hall had been beautifully decorated and the small tree decked with its usual trimmings and lit up by many miniature incandescent lights of all colors was especially attractive.

The music by the El Centro orchestra was a treat hardly expected, as the music furnished by them under the leadership and direction of Professor Antonio Scarpa was so far ahead of anything ever heard in the Valley it came as a complete surprise. The orchestra composed of Professor Scarpa, director, clarinet; Murray Stover, violin; G. Griswold, viola and Miss Swinburn, piano accompanist. Each one of these showed individual skill and the audience certainly did appreciate their efforts and showed their appreciation by numerous applause.

The school children furnished their share of the entertainment of the evening and showed they had been under guidance of patient and thoughtful assistance. For children each and every one did his or her part remarkably well. The following program was carried out:

Chorus—School children.

Prayer—Rev. Croco.

Song—Joy to the World.

Recitation—Welcome, Minor Drilling.

Song—Merry Christmas, chorus.

Recitation—Waiting, James Forster.

Recitation—Willie's and Anna's Prayer, Kathlene Perkiss.

Recitation—Howard Stilwell.

Solo—Gladys Bright.

Recitation—Zina Waldrop.

Recitation—Jessie Downing.

Recitation—Eira Wilsie.

Recitation—Cyril Parsons.

Song—Topsy Turvey, children.

Recitation—Mamie Stewart.

Recitation—Blanche Morey.

Solo—Ina Mackey.

Recitation—Harry Newton.

Recitation—Herbert Pool.

Song—Japanese Drill.

Recitation—Three Kings, Maud Parsons.

The program was ended by a very little play by the children, which they very well acted and brought engaging applause from the "grown

ups."

After the program Santa Claus, as always the case, appeared and proceeded forthwith to make many little children glad with small gifts of sweets and nuts that had been generously prepared by the ladies.

Those who had the entertainment in charge and were responsible for its success are deserving of a great deal of credit and no doubt were repaid by the large and appreciative gathering who so evidently enjoyed it to the fullest extent.

## TO HAVE A LEADER

### The El Centro Band to Have a Professional Leader and Director

Some months ago through the efforts of Murray Stover the beginning of a band was made. Only two or three instruments could be had, but enthusiasm never lagged and one by one additional pieces were added until at the present time El Centro has awakened to the fact that it has a band to be proud of and the band boys have come to the conclusion they should have a professional director and leader and are now negotiating with Professor Antonio Scarpa, who with his estimable wife are now stopping in our town. The professor is a finished musician and a director of recognized skill and ability and no doubt the arrangements will be made to keep him here. Every member of the band is in favor of securing his valuable services and with what assistance that will come from outside sources it is hoped they will see their way clear.

Professor Scarpa, when asked what he thought of the prospects for the band, was very enthusiastic and did not stint his praises. "Fine material," he said, "the nucleus of a fine band. Some of its members are artists and others can be brought up to a high state of proficiency."

Both the professor and his wife are delighted with El Centro and Imperial Valley and those who have made their acquaintance would be glad to have them settle amongst us.

### New Livery Stable

Brick layers commenced work Monday morning on the new livery stable building for W. W. Masten, on Broadway, just east of the Franklin. This building will be 40x60 and will have a brick front. Mr. Masten is in hopes that the new and larger building will enable him to take care of his increasing business more satisfactorily.

### Statements Without Foundation

Herewith is published a copy of an article which appeared in the "Chicago Fruit and Produce News," December 8, published in Chicago, Ill., refuting the statements made by its contemporary, the Packer, about C. E. Thurston Co.:

"New York, Dec. 7.—In its last issue the unreliable Packer in referring to the plans of the C. E. Thurston Co. in reference to selling cantaloupes at auction, made the statement that Mr. Thurston's representative at Brawley had told the growers that the Thurston Co. had an inside rate on the Southern Pacific and could also get much lower rate from the Armour people than any other association or shipper could and consequently could make them more money than if they did the business direct.

"Mr. Thurston's attention was called to this and he said it was untrue in every particular. There is no possible chance of his having any better rate over the Southern Pacific or with the Armour people. Mr. Thurston said that his representative was a man of judgment and he was certain that no such statement was made by him. The article in the Packer was dated Brawley, Calif., but had all the earmarks of having been written in the New York office. This is simply one of the untrue and unreliable statements that the Packer is in the habit of making."

Work on the ice plant will begin in a few days. Several cars of material are already on the ground.

## A VALUABLE HORSE

### W. W. Masten Has Just Purchased a High Bred Coach Horse

Last week W. W. Masten bought from J. Crouch and Son the valuable high bred German coach stallion, which has been on exhibition at El Centro for the past month. This animal is a direct importation from Germany by J. Crouch and Son. His name is Remetus No. 3489, and was bred by Hinrich Bodeker.

The following is the pedigree:

Remetus No. 3489, sire Ailrat No. 1193, by Magnat No. 860, by Agamemnon No. 560, by Jellachich H. G. B. 409.

Dam—Remete No. 6348, by Rubico No. 952, by Norman 710, etc. was accepted for register by the German, Hanoverian and Oldenburg Coach Horse Stud Book, the 10th of April, 1906. His weight is 1515 pounds and he is a fine looking, trim limbed animal.

Mr. Masten is to be commended on his purchase as high bred stock is a paying investment in this Valley.

The purchase price was \$3000 and looks to be a good bargain. The horse will stand at Masten's livery stable and can be seen at any time.

Mr. Marion Keen, who represented J. Crouch and son here, says the best value of this horse lies in the fact that he is so highly bred that he is bound to produce his like. He was bred and raised under the supervision of the German government, which has been perfecting this particular breed of horses for more than 350 years.

### A Happy Christmas Reunion

Christmas, like Thanksgiving, is a day for the gathering together of relatives and friends and a day of much festivity and happiness.

Fuller Bros. ranch, six miles south of town, was the scene of such an occasion Tuesday, when about thirty relatives and a few friends came in from near and far to spend the day in true Christmas style. Fred met the morning train and returned with a jolly load of the last arrivals from nearby towns and then proceeded to show us over the ranch with its well kept stock.

The boys have a fine ranch and its fields of green alfalfa covered with herds of horses, cattle and hogs can well be shown by them with no small amount of just pride.

Visitations and recounting past experiences occupied the remainder of the day until three o'clock, when dinner was announced and in gathering around the long table covered with everything that is good and goes to make a dinner on such occasions one could not but admire the efforts of the ladies to please. One of the boys remarked as he looked down over the table from his seat at the end that he wanted no one to bother him for awhile, as he was going to be real busy.

This is the first time in several years that so many of the family have been together at one time and was indeed a happy occasion. Those present from a distance were:

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Barnett, Elsinore.  
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Fuller, El Monte.  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fuller, Brawley.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Broadbent, Los Nietos.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fuller, Rivera.  
Harry E. Miller, Brawley.  
M. M. Miller, Longton, Kansas.  
Robert Fuller, Brawley.  
Viola Litchenberger, Los Angeles.

## THE CHRISTMAS BALL

### Was Well Attended and Proved a Great Success

The dance given in the hall in the Bank building Christmas night was undoubtedly the most enjoyable and best attended dance ever had in the Valley. The hall, which is the largest and finest in the entire Valley, proved almost inadequate to accommodate those who wished to participate. People came from Calexico, Brawley, Imperial and Holtville, the Holtan Inter Urban railway running a special train for the people of the latter town. The hall had been nicely decorated the night before, the floor had been properly prepared for dancing and everyone there seemed to enjoy themselves to fullest extent.

The committee Messrs. W. E. Downing, O. R. Miller and W. L. Payne, did everything they could do that none should escape a good time and with the excellent music furnished by the orchestra, led by Professor Scarpa, it was certainly the dancer's paradise.

The dance was given under the auspices of the El Centro band and netted them about \$90. At 10 o'clock an oyster supper at the Hotel El Centro was announced and over sixty couples availed themselves.

The visitors from the neighboring towns were especially pleased and are looking forward to the next one.

### The Unit of Another Project

The secretary of the interior to-day conditionally allotted the sum of \$650,000 from the reclamation fund for the construction of the Orland irrigation project in California. The conditions to be fulfilled before the project is finally approved for construction are as follows:

1st. That 12,000 acres of land be pledged by the owners in a form to be approved by the department such that the lands will be held bound to repay the cost of construction under the terms of the reclamation act.

2nd. That satisfactory arrangements be made and agreements completed for the adjustment of water rights or for options to purchase certain properties and rights.

3rd. That satisfactory arrangements be made for the purchase of the lands needed for reservoir purposes.

4th. That the owners of the lands agree to subdivide and sell their holdings in excess of 160 acres in farm units of not to exceed 40 acres.

This is the first unit of the Sacramento valley project, which it is hoped may in time be undertaken by the United States. The lands to be irrigated in the vicinity of Orland lie along Stony Creek and the waters of this creek regulated by storage are to be used in the irrigation of the land.

There is no uncertainty about the results. Irrigation on a small scale has long been practiced in this part of the Sacramento Valley. Vineyards and orchards will rapidly take the place under irrigation of the grain fields, which of late years have proven unremunerative.

Alexis Callaud, an orange expert, and Frank A. Tetley, both of Riverside, were in El Centro, Wednesday, in company with I. L. Wilson.

The valley was visited Thursday by a very general rain. Those farmers who have young alfalfa coming on are very much pleased with these occasional rains.

## AN IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION

### The Following is From An Authoritative Source at Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—In response to inquiry Mr. F. H. Newell, chief engineer of the reclamation service stated that as far as he was aware no official action was under consideration with reference to the situation on the lower Colorado river. It is assumed that the California Development company with the assistance of the Southern Pacific railway, will repair the recent break and that with the experience had it would be possible to put the river back in its proper channel with little delay and relatively less expense than before. The equipment is on the ground and the men and materials are presumably available.

As regards the future permanence of the work this is a point which is serious, but it is believed by the engineers on the spot that the dikes can be built in such manner as to be secure. On the opposite side of the river from the broken dikes the reclamation service has built similar dikes which have stood recent floods and which with occasional repairs give promise of being fairly secure.

On being asked whether the government would not immediately go to the aid of the threatened settlers Mr. Newell stated that he did not see how this could be done without an act of congress and an especial appropriation of some \$2,000,000. The work must be done on Mexican territory and some form of convention or treaty must officially be had before government officials could cross the line. On the other hand the employees of the railroad or of the canal company could do so without further formalities.

As to the probability of obtaining an appropriation or authority from congress this seems very remote. The members of congress who have taken most interest in the matter express doubt of the probability of congress making an appropriation and in fact appear to hesitate to introduce any bill to this effect, believing that even the introduction of a bill might serve to complicate matters by forming an excuse for the present owners to throw up their hands. If it could be said that the government might undertake the work the responsible parties would unquestionably take refuge behind such a statement.

Mr. Newell further stated that the reclamation service had nothing to do with the matter and beyond expressing deep sympathy was powerless, as it had no available funds and no authority. The government officials are watching the developments and assume that the owners of the canals will get together within a few days and presumably with the backing of the Southern Pacific railway, push forward the repair of the break in the river bank. The railroad has such great interest at stake, not only in the preservation of its main line, but in the business from the Imperial Valley, that it obviously cannot afford to see millions of dollars of property and securities go to loss.

Prompt action must be taken in order to close the break before the regular spring rise. There is no time for delay and even if congress should act promptly, which it probably will not, it would be impracticable to proceed excepting with the equipment already belonging to the railroad company. In other words if the exigency is to be met it must be through the agencies already on the ground.