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PREDICTS BIG CROPS IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

Ed. Fletcher Returns From Trip in Back Country With Good Reports.

Ed. Fletcher has returned from Imperial valley where he has been looking after his interests. He is interested, with others, in a 320-acre ranch and reports crops as being heavy and the price of grain and hay very satisfactory.

While there, Mr. Fletcher rode in a gasoline motor car, built by the Fairbanks, Morse Co., and now in operation on the S. P. branch from El Centro to Holtville, known as the Holtville Inter Urban.

"This car has many new and interesting features," said Mr. Fletcher, and is now in successful operation. It has a seating capacity of about 20 to 25, but during the campaign over the county seat, the gasoline motor car was run from El Centro to Brawley one evening, and carried 56 passengers, a distance of 18 miles in 33 minutes. The great feature of this car is its simplicity.

"The regular run from El Centro to Holtville, a distance of 11 miles, is easily covered including stops, in 25 minutes. The day before Mr. Fletcher arrived in Imperial, the car brought over 1 1-2 tons of cream and 25 passengers from Holtville to El Centro in less than 30 minutes, including several stops. This car, in Mr. Fletcher's opinion, will certainly take the place of the steam engine for suburban traffic.

The cost of operation for the round trip to Holtville, 24 miles is less than \$3. Mr. Holt says the cost of operation by steam is \$12 to \$14 for the same trip. This does not include the difference in saving of wear and tear of the tracks or machinery, which is a very material point. The cost of maintenance of the track is much

lighter, owing to the extreme weight of the engine and train as compared with the gasoline motor car, its total weight being 8000 pounds.

"Mr. Holt is considering the purchase of another car and states that later on, providing the S. D. & A. road does not run through Silsbee, that an entrance will be made from El Centro to Silsbee and the same service will be given as Holtville is now receiving.

"The ice and cold storage plant at El Centro is certainly a credit to the town and Mr. Holt has just entered into a contract with the Southern Pacific railroad for many thousands of tons of ice for icing purposes. He is now doubling the original size of the plant.

"Last year nearly a thousand car loads of cantaloups and melons were raised in Imperial valley, and it is expected next year the quantity will be doubled. Barley is worth from \$1 to \$1.10 there and even at that price a great many of the farmers are feeding barley to the hogs for fattening purposes, rather than sell the grain. Hundreds of carloads of hogs are being shipped out of the valley and that industry alone is bringing tens of thousands of dollars to the settlers.

"Each year thousands of acres of fruit trees and grape vineyards are being planted and the fruit industry will in time, be the largest industry in the valley, in my opinion. The new railroad cannot be built into the valley any to soon, and I am sure revenue from the Imperial valley alone, will be sufficient to warrant building the road."—San Diego Union

The new Abstract Company

El Centro is to be congratulated upon the establishment of the Imperial Valley Abstract Title and Trust Company, whose advertisement appears upon another page. They announce to the public that they are now ready to issue certificates of titles and abstracts to all sections or parcels of land and town lots forming a part of the new county.

Dan E. Shaffer, who for three years has been connected with the Abstract Title and Trust Company, of San Diego, is manager for the new firm. He is a son of the late E. E. Shaffer, for so long county auditor of San Diego county. Thus Mr. Shaffer is a man eminently fitted to conduct such a business and those wishing any title business done would do well to consult him.

The company's office is located in Beach & Dool's El Centro offices at present.

Imperial Co. Gets First Court Case.

A motion was filed in the superior court yesterday for the transfer of cause of action to the superior court of Imperial county. The cause in question is No. 3469, in the matter of the estate of Grey Bussell, a minor.

Buy a town lot, a few choice ones left, get in before the raise. Call and talk it over with Jauman, El Centro Land Co. 20tf

RAILROAD BOYS TO LIVE HERE

Will Make Calexico Their Homes as Soon as the New Schedule is Ar- ranged

Calexico will be glad to get the news that as soon as the new schedule for valley service is arranged most of the railroad men and their families now living at Old Beach will remove to Calexico. The change will take place near the first of September. The new schedule is now being made up, but is not ready for announcement. The runs will be arranged for better accommodation of the valley people both for those who wish to visit the city and for valley travel.

The S. P. company recently wrote the Calexico chamber of commerce that the service would be improved just as soon as possible and they are keeping their word. Much complaint is made because of the inconvenience of the present schedule.—Calexico Chronicle.

Opera House

Regular services at the opera house next Sunday. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by J. F. Tout. All are welcome.

AFFAIRS AT THE COUNTY SEAT

Supervisors and County Officers are Ready to Qualify. Waiting for the Judge.

The wheels of the new county government have hardly begun to turn as yet. There has been considerable delay on account of the absence of any person qualified to administer the oaths of office to the various county officials. Judge Cole, the newly elected Superior judge, has been awaiting his commission from the government of the state. He has been in Los Angeles and San Diego and the rest of the officers have been awaiting his return as he will be qualified to install them in their offices in shape to transact Imperial county business.

The bonds have nearly all been prepared and everything is in readiness to commence business as soon as Judge Cole returns. He will return from Los Angeles possibly Friday.

Supervisors Meet

The board of supervisors met Thursday unofficially and discussed a few matters that will receive official consideration as soon as things are in working order.

Among other things that will have to be settled will be temporary quarters for the county officials. The judge's chambers and court room will probably be the Masonic lodge room in the opera house block and the various officers installed in the office rooms upstairs in the same block. Recorder J. B. Baker will probably be installed in the brick building built for a restaurant opposite the bank. The treasurer may be found later in the rear room of the bank and he may be given the use of the bank vault for temporary accommodation.

Suggested Building

It has been suggested that the county erect a brick business block of possibly 50x100 feet to be used for two or three years by county officials and when the county court house is completed to be sold and occupied by a mercantile business and offices. Such a plan seems to meet with the approval of all who have heard of it and seems to be a good way out of the temporary office difficulty. The building would probably cost \$10,000 or \$12,000 and would save the county rent for the interim.

The matter of jail accommodation is one that will have to receive immediate consideration. It will be necessary to take care of prisoners in some way. The plan to immediately secure a set of steel ribbed cells that could be set up in a short time seems to be the best yet suggested. These cells could be set up any place and a shed built over them for protection from the weather. The jail itself could be built up around the cells. Such expediences are all to be considered by the board.

The first few weeks the board of supervisors will have to be in almost constant session for that body is the business manager of the county and all business questions of almost every nature have to be passed up to them.

Everyone is anxious for all officers to be qualified as soon as possible, including notaries public and justices.

No Local Government

Since the filing of the resolution forming Imperial county with the secretary of state in Sacramento all justices of the peace have been out of commission; no notary has had authority to sign his name as a notary or take any kind of an acknowledgement. There are dozens of papers awaiting the qualification of a notary public.

The county ordinances, a whole volume of them, went out of effect as far as Imperial county was concerned with the filing of the same resolution. The supervisors will have to pass ordinances and have them published fifteen days before they are effective. This means that for at least twenty days yet there will be no county law. State laws are effective, of course. Public sentiment and local leagues will, no doubt, be able to keep things in order with the law of persuasion.

EL CENTRO TO BE PRINCIPAL CITY

Justice of Peace of New County Optimistic Over Final Outcome.

Felix G. Havens of El Centro, formerly United States commissioner, and who is now a justice of the peace in the Imperial valley, is in the city. Mr. Havens says that El Centro is not only to be the metropolis of the Imperial country, but that it is already. It is a well known fact that Mr. Havens could have accepted a nomination of clerk of the new county, but that he did not allow the use of his name, the understanding being that El Centro should not introduce any candidates into the campaign.

"There are," says Mr. Havens, "many questions related to the formation of the new county which much time will be required in settling. Some of them will have to be settled in courts. However, we are not

bothering ourselves about them. They will all be settled and settled right. We expect to make a fine showing over there in the next few years."

Mr. Havens is interested in collecting claims of Imperial valley property holders for damages resulting from the overflow of the Colorado river. He has already filed at Washington against the government of Mexico more than a million dollars of damage claims, and he is still adding to the number. The Mexican government is to be held accountable, although considerable time may be occupied in securing a settlement.

Mr. Havens thinks there will be few sufferers in San Diego from the land frauds.

Banqueted Him

District Attorney Eshleman returned Saturday from Berkeley where he finished up his business affairs in order to take up his new work as legal adviser and prosecuting attorney for Imperial county. He is now in El Centro where he and his wife will live.

His colleagues and friends about the bay gave "Jack" a genuine ovation upon his departure, judging from the Berkeley papers. A fine banquet was spread at which Mr. Eshleman's law partner presided. A large gathering of prominent citizens bade him God speed in his new home.

The papers say that Mr. Eshleman was to have been the next state senator from Alameda county and that since his removal there have been thirty or forty candidates for his place in the assembly.

The district attorney has a hard row to hoe. Nearly all the officers of the new county are entirely without experience in the conduct of their offices and all must be guided by the district attorney as to legal points. Having served as deputy in the same office in Alameda county Mr. Eshleman will turn off his work with accuracy and celerity.—Calexico Chronicle.

A High Compliment

The San Diego News of last week speaks in its editorial columns of Supervisor Webster in the following highly complimentary manner:

Supervisor Webster was one of the ablest men on the Board and commanded the respect of his colleagues and everybody with whom he came in contact.

While we sincerely regret the departure of the supervisor from the San Diego Board, we feel that he of all others should take a leading part in the future affairs of the new county.

San Diego county will not reapportion its territory for new supervisory districts until the meeting of the board of supervisors August 28th.

If you want a ranch anywhere in the Imperial Valley call in and it over with Jauman. I can use several 40 and 80 acre pieces improved or partly so, if your price is right, your money is ready. 20tf

W. H. BUCK TO BE DEPUTY SHERIFF

Mobley Meadows Selects a Good Man to Assist Him in Office

W. H. Buck, of Fort Yuma, has been selected by Mobley Meadows as his chief deputy to assist him in the sheriff's office of the new county. Mr. Buck is the proprietor of the Fort Yuma general merchandise store and the stage line to Laguna. He nominated Mr. Meadows in the convention at Imperial and has been a factor in the river political situation.

Anticipating his selection to the office Mr. Buck has secured valuable options on property at El Centro. It is reported that he will open a general store at the county seat—Calexico Chronicle.

COUNTY CLERK ELDER TO RESIGN

Business Affairs in Idaho Make it Impossible to Take Up His New Duties.

D. S. Elder, elected county clerk, will resign his office as soon as he qualifies. He has business interests in Idaho that demand his attention and it will be impossible for him to be in the valley for several months. In order to expedite the business of the new county Mr. Elder has decided to place his resignation with the board of supervisors as soon as he qualifies for the office.

Then it will be up to the board to appoint his successor. This will probably be done at the first meeting.

It is with much regret that the valley loses the services of so capable a man as Mr. Elder. He is thoroughly qualified for the duties of the office and it will be hard to find a man who would so successfully fill the place.—Calexico Chronicle.

The Southern Pacific is running three extra trains each day to Brawley from Old Beach in order to give the railroad men there a chance to eat. Hotel Harriman has been closed down and the "Harriman Special" has taken its place.