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IRRIGATION CONGRESS

The Irrigationists of the West Hold Interest- ing Sessions

LARGE ATTENDANCE

Southern California Well Represented by Prominent Men. A Few Kickers Present

The fifteenth National Irrigation Congress opened Monday under the most auspicious circumstances, with but one of the regular speakers absent from the platform. The exercises moved like clock work.

So well had the executive work been done that there seemed to be a place for everybody in the vast throng and everybody for a place.

The feature of the session was the speech of Vice-President Fairbanks, in which he emphatically asserted that the effect of irrigation in this western country can be appreciated only by those who are familiar with it from personal observation. The change made in the conversion of an arid waste into fruitful field seems almost incredible. There is no more radical transformation to be found anywhere than in the parched valleys and plains which have been irrigated and which prior thereto produced nothing but sagebrush. The most unproductive land has become the most fertile. From the worst it takes rank as the best. The distinguished speaker proceeded to discuss the general policy of the government in its relations to irrigation, the development of the water places of the country and the relation of irrigation to various industries.

Gifford Pinchot read a brief and complimentary message from President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Interior Garfield sent his regrets that he is unable to attend. F. L. Newell, director of the reclamation service, is specifically commissioned by the secretary to represent the department in the discussions that are to come up. Garfield indicates that everything is not running as smoothly as the government desires, and says in his letter to Governor Chamberlain:

"The most critical period in the reclamation work is at hand. It is the maintenance and operation of the completed projects and payment by the water users. Already there are suggestions and requests that the first year's installments for cost and maintenance be postponed or lessened. The success of this great work depends upon the strict enforcement of the provisions of the act regarding payments, and any postponement, any reduction, surely means difficulty later on. The only way to insure the success of present projects and the development of other projects is to pay promptly for the existing ones.

"Actual use of irrigated lands shows that the small farm affords the best opportunity for the greatest profit. The man who works a few acres intelligently, intensively, persistently, will not find the investment overburdensome, but the man with more land than he can work will inevitably make a failure."

Governor George B. Chamberlain, of Oregon, opened up a chance for discussing the stupendous looting of the public domain by railroads, lumber corporations and individuals. This governor from Oregon did not hesitate to use short and ugly words in designating land grabbers. He called them thieves. Then he went direct to the heart of the situation and suggested that the congress discuss and recommend that the National congress and the administration proceed to recover stolen lands, to take them forcibly from the railroads and predatory corporations and restore them to the people.

Southern California is well represented at the Fifteenth National Irrigation Congress by the following delegates: L. C. Gates, J. B. Lippincott, William Niles, W. C. Mendenhall and former city attorney W. B. Mathews, of Los Angeles; T. D. Allen, of Pasadena; F. G. Havens, of El Centro; Assemblyman M. Estudillo, Frank Cuttle, Judge John G. North and Dr. W. W. Roblee, of Riverside; Senator Harry M. Willis, Scipio Craig and Mary Lynde Craig, of Redlands, and Thomas Buckworth, of San Bernardino.

F. G. Havens, of El Centro, is California's representative on the committee on credentials.

L. M. Holt, of the Imperial Land Co., Los Angeles, and supporters from Yuma, Imperial and Owens Valley, who allege grievances against the reclamation service, were present to lay their case before the irrigation congress. L. M. Holt, discussing the matter said:

"All we are asking is that congress shall investigate the reclamation service in a legal manner. We desire the facts placed before congress and want the irrigation congress to indorse the proposition of investigation. It may be developed that we will not hold a preliminary convention, but we intend to carry the matter to congress even if the irrigation congress does not support us."

F. H. Newell, director of the United States reclamation service says there is no foundation to the charges made. In speaking of the matter he said: "The Water Users' association incorporated embraces all the land owners in Yuma valley and has an agreement with the secretary of the interior that if the government reclaims the land, the lands benefited will return the cost of the benefit without profit or interest.

There has been formed another organization, not incorporated, which has taken the name of the legitimate association, adding the word 'Consolidated,' which does not include land owners, but merely owners of a ditch there, which these owners are trying to sell to the government for \$500,000. We had appraisements made of the ditch and offered them \$25,000, with a conditional increase to \$45,000 if they can show good title to certain rights of way. The government not being willing to pay \$500,000, they simply started in to blackguard the representatives of the government. In doing so they brought in innumerable charges which are either false or based on malicious distortions or half truths. The object of the whole affair is to bring about such annoyance it will result in securing a better price for the ditch."

W. A. Bondesson, president of the Yuma Water Users' association, is in Sacramento and endorses many statements of Mr. Newell.

NEW TIME CARD

Under the New Schedule Both Valley Trains Connect with Main Line Trains

A new schedule went into effect on the Southern Pacific Sunday, and now both of the trains, in and out of the valley make good connections with the west bound main line trains. The new time card will prove more popular than the former one, as it enables passengers to and from Los Angeles and coast points to connect at Imperial Junction twice a day.

The following is the time card, with the time of arriving at the Junction and the connections made:

Passenger train No. 503 leaves El Centro at 12:48 in the afternoon and arrives at Imperial Junction at 2:30 and connects with No. 7 westbound for Los Angeles, leaving at 3:12 p. m.

Mixed train No. 505 leaves El Centro at 11:25 p. m., arrives at the junction at 3:20 a. m. and connects with No. 9, westbound, leaving at 4:31 a. m.

Coming from Los Angeles connections are made at Imperial Junction, the valley trains leaving there as follows:

Mixed train No. 502 leaves the junction at 6:30 a. m. and passenger train No. 504 leaves there at 8 o'clock in the evening. With this arrangement passengers from the coast have the privilege of arriving home either in the morning or evening.

The Holton Inter-Urban railway not only changed their time card to conform with that of the Southern Pacific, but added another train a day excepting Sundays for the convenience of Holtville and Eastside people. Holtville trains leave El Centro at 10:00 a. m., 1:00 p. m. and 5:00 p. m. From Holtville to El Centro the trains leave at 8:45 a. m., 12:00 p. m. and at 4:00 p. m. Freight days on this road are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

JUSTICE'S COURT

Justice of the Peace W. L. Payne Holds Court

A few things were doing in the justice's court this week.

In the first place Justice of the Peace W. L. Payne received the first bond of Bob Davis, acting upon advice of Justice Hoffman, of Calexico.

Wednesday a complaint was sworn to by Ellen C. Wittenberg against Joe Hucklebridge, who, the complaint alleges, stole some turkeys from the plaintiff. The alleged offender was brought before the court by Jake Meadows. In the absence of the district attorney W. E. Cox appeared for the plaintiff and T. P. Banta for the defense. Trial was postponed until next Tuesday, September 10, at 3 o'clock, when the district attorney will be present. Joe Hucklebridge was released by the judge on his own recognizance.

A civil suit was also filed in the justice court Wednesday,

Messrs. Crawford & Davis bringing suit to recover a cow alleged to have been unlawfully sold. Will Saunders bought the cow and claims to hold the bill of sale. G. H. P. Shaw is attorney for plaintiff and W. E. Cox for defendant. Case was set for trial next Tuesday, September 10th.

GETTING POINTERS

County Assessor Fred Fuller in Riverside on County Business

Assessor Fuller of Imperial county is in the city to-day getting pointers from Assessor Montague on the method of conducting his office. So well satisfied was he with the system inaugurated by Mr. Montague that he will likely adopt it in Imperial, using books nearly identical with those prepared by Mr. Montague. Mr. Fuller is a good representative of the progressive new county and is enthusiastic over its future. —Riverside Press.

NOS. 8 AND 6 FLUME

Work is Progressing Nicely—About Sixty-Five Men Employed

The report comes that work is going right along on the flume which is to convey water across new river for Water companies No's 8 and 6. This flume is being put in on Mexican territory being put in on Mexican territory about one mile from Packard.

The pile driver is kept steadily at work driving the long piles deep into the ground, carpenters following up the work of the pile driver, making things move right along. The flume will be about forty-five feet above the water in the river. The work of driving the extra long piling will commence soon, and it is hoped that it will not be long before water is flowing across this troublesome river.

Engineer Wm Best is in charge of the work and expresses himself as well pleased with the work.

San Diego Celebrates Today

Indelibly stamped upon the memory of people of San Diego, Saturday September 7, will be remembered always as the date upon which the first spadeful of dirt was turned for the construction of the road which is to directly connect the "city of the jeweled gate" with the commerce of the east.

At a general committee meeting held early Tuesday afternoon this Saturday was definitely fixed as the date for the celebration. The speakers will be William Clayton, Rev. W. B. Hinson, M. L. Ward and G. W. Marston.

Dr. Gochenauer will preside. President J. D. Spreckels of the railroad will be asked to remove the first chunk of earth. Exercises will begin at 2:30 p. m.

There will be a big parade through the city. Everybody possessing a conveyance has been invited to participate.

The parade will consist of mounted police, fire department, two bands, automobiles, banners and carriages of all kinds.

BOB DAVIS ARRESTED

Alleged to Have Sold
Liquor to a Minor
at Calexico

BARTENDER TAKEN

Both Were Taken Before Justice of the Peace Hoffman Monday and Were Brought Here

Bob Davis and his bartender, "Pete" were arrested at Calexico, Monday forenoon by Constable W. O. Hamilton and Deputy Constable C. Bradford, of El Centro, on warrants sworn to by E. S. McCollum, of Calexico, alleging that they had sold liquor to his son, a minor of 16 years. It is alleged in the complaints that this boy had gone into Bob Davis' place of business and was sold liquor on two separate occasions without the slightest hesitation on the part of the bartender.

Justice of the Peace Hoffman, of Calexico, called court and the two were immediately brought into court and the judge read the complaints. Davis took the two days allowed him by law to plead and refused to give bail.

Bob and his bartender were brought to El Centro on the noon train Monday and were in the custody of the officers until Tuesday forenoon, when bail was furnished Bob in the sum of \$1000 by Tom McKeehan, of Brawley, and Nathan Landsberg, of Calexico. "Pete" failed to get bonds and was kept under surveillance at El Centro.

Immediately after giving the bond Davis hired a rig and drove to Imperial. At about the same time another warrant for a similar offense was placed in the hands of the constable, who followed him to Imperial on the train and placed Davis under arrest the second time. He was taken to Calexico and remanded by the justice court to the custody of the officer until Wednesday at which time he was to appear on the first charge. Wednesday before Davis had secured bondmen for the second time, a third warrant was served, so the amount of the second bonds were doubled and he was then allowed his liberty.

The cases of both Bob and Pete were set for trial on the 16th of September. These are state cases and will require the presence of the district attorney.

Pete's bonds were reduced Wednesday from \$1000 to \$500, which was furnished, he thereby gaining his liberty.

Imperial Has New Attorney

At a meeting of the board of trustees of Imperial held Wednesday evening, G. H. P. Shaw was appointed city attorney of Imperial to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of F. C. Farr.