

WILL COST \$100,000

Work on Nos. 8 and 6 Ditches
Will Begin in a Week or So

The construction of the ditches on the west side of New river, to accommodate Nos. 6 and 8, will commence about the middle of October. The California Development company is just now asking big contractors for bids on the work.

The work will include twenty-six miles of ditches, practically the whole length of the valley. An entirely new system has been figured out and the lines will be in the most advantageous position for the accommodation of the water users.

This work means much to Cal-exico. The contractors will bring from 600 to 700 men to go on the job. There will be at least 1500 head of livestock. Cal-exico will be the shipping and distributing point for the whole crew. The men will come to this town to buy and business will be greatly increased as a consequence. The supplies that will be ordered from here will be something enormous for such a gang of men.

The contracts that the C. D. company will let call for the completion of the work within ninety days.

Laying the Boys Off

The Cal. Development Co. is laying off most of the surveying and engineering crews. Several parties came in the fore part of this week and have received their checks. The boys are scattering in all directions, some taking advantage of the offer of the Randolph lines in Mexico and others going to Los Angeles and San Francisco. Most of the boys have been steadily at work in the fields since early spring and feel the need of a breath of ocean breeze and are taking their vacations now.

Following is a list of the boys who are no longer with the company:

A. B. Carmichael, V. S. Chambers, T. Willard Espy, R. Lawrence, Fred Brictor, Shelley Humphreys, C. L. Engle, H. L. Lyons, Joseph Linney, M. B. King, Frank Smith, J. H. Lemons, W. D. Ricks, Henry Vest, C. L. Ammon, W. J. Lee, W. D.

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OFFICE OF
F. G. HAVENS
AGENT COLORADO RIVER
DAMAGE CLAIMS

President Roosevelt never said a truer thing than he did when he characterized the cutting of the Colorado river at the Mexican intake without headgates or controlling works, as criminal negligence. Our government notified the Mexican government as early as June, 1905, that this cut was unprotected and would soon wash out, so as to turn the entire river into Imperial Valley, and that great damage would result. These warnings were repeated from time to time, and the scene of the break was visited by Mexican officials on numerous occasions. Nothing was done by them, however, until some of the damage claims were filed. Then, after the river broke in the second time, they began to sit up and take notice. On December 21st, 1906, they notified the Mexican company that unless they showed within ten days that they were able to shut up the break within thirty days, their concession would be confiscated. The parties notified thereupon complained of this treatment and wanted to know why this change. They were informed that the reason was that farmers along new river were filing claims for damages against the Mexican government with the government of the United States, and Mexico didn't want to get within range of such damage claims. Since then the break has been closed by the Southern Pacific company, with the understanding that Congress is to reimburse them for the expense. Careful examinations of the Colorado river situation, and of the watercourses leading to the Imperial Valley have been made during the past three months. The engineers agree that very substantial permanent works are necessary to render the valley safe, and that Mexico should co operate with the United States in the expense. Examinations have been made by the Mexican officials and the matter can now be said to be under consideration by both governments. We believe it is safe to assume that Mexico will take the position she has in the past and decide that as American interests alone are menaced, the Americans should look out for themselves. As the river is shut out and no crisis is on, they are in good position to take this attitude. In this case our damage claims are the key to the situation, and we shall do our utmost to bring about the very best possible solution of the Colorado river problem, and at the same time, bring justice to those whose homes and lands were devastated by operations for which the Mexican government is responsible.

F. G. HAVENS.

Jones, Vic Carr, A. Townsend, Louis Wright, B. Otis, G. Hammond, Gus Lawton, R. E. Ward, R. E. Masters, A. Braunschweiger, Ross Withrow, C. E. Wilde, R. E. Barnes, C. S. Jackson, G. W. Spencer.

Others will be laid off as the work in hand is finished.

DOUBLING THE HOLT INTAKE

C. D. Company at Work at Holt's Heading

The California Development company is engaged in doubling the intake at Holts' heading, just the other side of Sharps'. The present gate is but twenty feet wide and not enough water can be admitted to supply the power canal and the farmers in No. 5 at the same time during the early summer. The new gate will admit plenty of water at all times and the trouble experienced last spring with the farmers on the east side will not be had again.

Mr. Rockwood, who is in charge of the big dredger on the main canal, is dredging up the canal and will reach the Sharps' heading soon. From there he will clean out the channel from Sharps' to Holts' headings.

Some of the most important that has yet been done is now being completed by Jim Garcia's sturdy gang of Mexicans at Chaffee's waste gate. This old gate, east of Sharps, was formerly used for the Alamo waste but was abandoned when the new gate was built below the Chaffee site. Since that time the entrance to the old gate has filled with silt and has grown rank with bank weeds. In addition to this the site was completely undermined by musk rats, making that point one of the most dangerous in the whole system that the C. D. company controls. Garcia's gang has been engaged in remedying this danger.

One of the engineers, who knew the facts, said that he would not have been surprised to hear of the whole works breaking thru at the heading at any time. The vigilance of the engineers alone made a disaster impossible.

Notice

All parties knowing themselves indebted to me will please call and settle not later than Monday, September 30th, as I have sold out, and the payment of your bill to me will save trouble to both of us.
LOUIS KNAPPY,
El Centro Market.

THE REAL CHINESE GONG.

It Makes an Uproar as Awful as It is Astonishing.

By the way, did you ever hear a real Chinese gong? I don't mean a hotel gong, but one of those great moon disks of yellow metal which have so terrible a power of utterance.

A gentleman in Bangor, north Wales, who had a private museum of south Pacific and Chinese curiosities, exhibited one to me. It was hanging amid Fiji spears beautifully barbed with sharks' teeth, which, together with grotesque New Zealand clubs of green stone and Sandwich Island paddles wrought with the baroque visages of the shark god, were depending from the walls; also there were Indian elephants in ivory, carrying balls in their carven bellies, each ball containing many other balls inside it.

The gong glimmered pale and huge and yellow, like the moon rising over a southern swamp. My friend tapped its ancient face with a muffled drum stick, and it commenced to sob like waves upon a low beach. He tapped it again, and it moaned like the wind in a mighty forest of pines. Again, and it commenced to roar, and with each tap the roar grew deeper and deeper till it seemed like thunder rolling over an abyss in the Cordilleras or the crashing of Thor's chariot wheels.

It was awful and astonishing as awful. I assure you I did not laugh at it at all. It impressed me as something terrible and mysterious. I vainly sought to understand how that thin disk of trembling metal could produce so frightful a vibration. He informed me that it was very expensive, being chiefly made of the most precious metals, silver and gold.—From "Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn."

Friendship With Wild Life.

If a fairy had ever offered to grant me three wishes, "the full confidence of wild animals" would surely have been one of them and probably the first. If we seek opportunities to befriend wild creatures and take advantage of them, we shall often find, as I have done, that there is no lack of response on the part of the animals. I once walked up to a pine siskin, as he was feeding on the ground and picked him up in my hand. He did not seem a bit alarmed, and when a few minutes later I set him down he continued his search for food within a few inches of my feet. On another occasion a yellow throated vireo allowed me to lift her from her nest when I wished to count her eggs and nestled down comfortably on her treasures the moment I put her back. With a forefinger I once stroked the back of a red breasted nuthatch as he was busy feeding on a tree.—Ernest Harold Baynes in St. Nicholas.

An Answered Prayer.

"I sent my little girl," writes a correspondent, "to the butcher's with 50 cents to buy some steak. She came home 10 cents short in change and was sent back for the missing coin. Presently the butcher's boy called with the dime and explained that his employer had found out his mistake, although they had seen nothing of my little daughter. The time went on, and I felt anxious until I heard her singing merrily in the garden. 'Did you go back to the butcher's?' I asked. 'No, mother, it is such a long way, so I asked God to send for the dime. Has it not come yet?'"

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