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A BUILDING BOOM BEGUN

Contracts Made For Ten New Business Blocks

EVERY ONE LEASED

El Centro's Growth In Next Few Months Will Surpass all Previous Records

Ten new brick business buildings and twenty or more dwelling houses to be erected at once. That is the way El Centro will begin the winter campaign of growth and expansion. Contracts were made this week for six brick buildings to be erected in a row on Main street. Work will be begun at once and it is expected that at least a part of the buildings will be ready for occupancy soon after the new year. Contracts for other brick buildings have also been made and work on these will be begun as soon as practicable. This announcement of extensive building operations will be good news to all who are watching the remarkable growth of the county seat. Other similar announcements will be made in the near future as the present building operations are only a part of the general plan of upbuilding the town. It can also be stated that every one of the business buildings has been leased before a stroke of work was done and all will be occupied from the moment they are ready.

Among the business firms who will locate in El Centro is W. H. Goodrich and Co. of Redlands. Goodrich and Co. have been known for years as one of the leading house furnishing firms in Southern California. They have two large stores in Redlands and are now preparing to put in a big one in El Centro. It will probably be the largest store of any kind in the valley and will be an indication of what prominent business men in other cities think of the future of El Centro. Other business houses are merely waiting for buildings to be completed to come here. Several would begin business at once if they could find accommodations. It is also probable that another office building will be erected in the near future as the demand for offices by real estate and professional men far exceeds the supply. The Blackington building will be ready for occupancy in about three weeks. This building will have two fine stores well fitted up and with handsome plate glass fronts. Negotiations for the lease of both these stores are now in progress.

Business plans which have already been definitely made and which require only time for their fulfillment contemplate the erection of substantial brick build-

ings within a year which will transform El Centro from a comparatively small frontier town to a big, busy and thriving business center.

Within the past week there has also been exceptional activity in the sale of residence lots. These lots have not been sold for speculation but are in the hands of men who propose to locate here and build at once. No less than twenty new houses are now being planned and before the winter is over there will undoubtedly be more. Men who have business or land interests in this vicinity have been watching the situation; they have decided that there is no longer any reason for doubt or hesitation and they are getting ready to bring their families here and to identify themselves in every way with the future of the town. El Centro is about to grow not only in a business but in a social way. It is attracting to itself an exceedingly desirable class of citizens and before the winter is over will be regarded as one of the best and most pleasant places in Southern California in which to live.

Watch the Magic City grow.

EL CENTRO WON

Fatal Seventh Proved Holtville's Undoing—New Uniforms Ordered

El Centro's reorganized baseball team defeated the strong Holtville nine by a score of 10 to 8 Sunday afternoon. Holtville has had the strongest team in the valley and showed up well, outplaying the local team except in the seventh inning when pitcher Cook slackened speed and a fusilade of hits mixed with some costly errors gave El Centro five runs and a lead which they maintained to the end.

El Centro's nine showed up even better than was expected in view of the fact that the men had had little or no opportunity to practice so that there could be no team work. There are some hard hitters on the team and when one or two of the weak spots have been strengthened the locals should be one of the strongest if not the strongest team in the valley. There are now about fifteen candidates for positions on the team including one good pitcher who was not in the game Sunday.

During the week \$100 or more was subscribed by local enthusiasts and a full equipment of uniforms, mask, protector, gloves, bats, etc. has been ordered. It is hoped that the uniforms will be ready for wear by a week from Sunday. They will be of white with blue letters, blue caps and belts; they will be of good quality and the players will present a natty appearance. It is now up to them to play ball well enough to be a credit to the new suits.

Following is the score by innings:
El Centro 0 1 1 0 0 1 5 2—10
Holtville 2 1 0 1 0 1 2 1 0—8
Strike Outs, by Cook 13; by Colby 3; by Whitley 12. Base on Balls, off Cook 3; off Colby 2; off Whitley 5. Hits, off Cook 7 Singles, 4 Two Baggers, 1 Three Bagger; off Colby 3 Singles; off Whitley 6 Singles.
Umpires Buttress, Record

TRAINS AND MAIL LATE

Valley Traffic Held Up Thursday and Friday

WASHOUTS ON LINE

Culvert Washed Away Between Brawley and Imperial. First Train Friday Afternoon

Imperial valley was practically cut off from communication with the outside world from Wednesday night to Friday afternoon as a result of the heavy showers early in the week. There were several washouts on the main line of the Southern Pacific between Mecca and Yuma. Three passenger trains were held at Yuma and three others at Indio.

The situation was serious and it was only by hard work and good management that service was resumed as soon as it was. Passengers for the valley Thursday arrived at Imperial Junction several hours late and were obliged to put up at Hotel Harriman until Friday morning. The valley train left the Junction at 8.25 Friday morning the break between Imperial and Brawley having been repaired. This train would have reached El Centro much earlier than it did had it not been for an accident to a water car which was being taken to the wrecking crew beyond Imperial. The water car was finally pushed off into the ditch with the aid of a wrecking engine and a freight engine and the passenger train succeeded in getting away about noon, arriving at El Centro at 3:30.

Everybody was glad to see the train and to get mail and the railroad company is to be congratulated on so speedy a resumption of traffic.

In the meantime the Holton Inter-Urban ran its trains every day without a break in the schedule.

HOLTVILLE'S BRICK PLANT

El Centro Contracts Cause Haste In Completing It's Machinery Here

The business of making brick out of Holtville dirt is being put into the front rank of Valley manufacturing industries says the Holtville Tribune this week. H. H. Peterson this week, unloaded machinery and began the work of installing an up to date brick making plant. The machinery is of the best grade, and is from the well known C. R. Raymond Brick Machinery Company, Dayton Ohio.

The building will be 46 1-2 x 33 1-2 feet in size and the plant when completed will cost about \$10,000. It's daily capacity will be 2500

bricks and from 12 to 18 men will be regularly employed. Mr. Peterson now has a number of large contracts at El Centro, and will rush the erection of the plant so as to get it to turning out brick. He expects to have it in full operation in about three weeks, and says he believes he will be able to supply the valleys brick demands, for several years to come. In the past building operations have been severely handicapped for want of brick and Mr. Peterson himself has often been sorely delayed in his contracts on that account.

With this plant, however, no such thing can occur. The building of this plant, while a good thing for Holtville is also a big advantage to the whole valley and Mr. Peterson cannot be too highly commended for his enterprise.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Important Meeting Next Week All Members Urged To Attend

The annual meeting and election of officers of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce will be held on Saturday night, October 26th at 7.30 o'clock. It is especially desirable that every member be present at this meeting as many matters of importance are to be taken up in addition to the election of officers. The meeting will be held in the new schoolhouse on Commercial street.

The work of the Chamber of Commerce is of vast importance to El Centro. It is the medium through which a great deal of information is dispensed to prospective settlers and investors. A hearty cooperation in the work beginning with attendance at the meeting next week is greatly to be desired.

Public Lands Open to Entry

Commissioner Ballinger of the general land office in Washington has received reports from the registers and receivers of the various land offices throughout the United States and Alaska, and it is shown that on June 30 last there were 774,385,068 acres of unappropriated public land in them. Of this 368,035,975 acres, or more than half the entire area are in Alaska.

Commissioner Ballinger has published a pamphlet for the information of prospective land-seekers, showing the character of the land in each land district by counties. The total area unappropriated and unreserved in California is given as 30,391,084 acres. The land in the southern counties is described as arid, level, desert, hilly and mountainous and the tabulation is as follows:
Kern..... 211,033
Los Angeles..... 866,657
Orange..... 20,674
Riverside..... 2,286,583
San Bernardino..... 4,553,084
San Diego..... 1,889,253
Santa Barbara..... 49,584
Ventura..... 119,001

J. A. Walton of Redlands was in El Centro Wednesday on his way home to Redlands after a visit to his ranch near Holtville.

FIRST TRIAL THIS WEEK

Superior Court of Imperial County In Session

MEXICAN ON TRIAL

Assault Case From Holtville To Come Up At a Later Term

The Superior court for Imperial county, Judge Cole presiding, opened in El Centro Wednesday and Wednesday morning the first trial to come before the court was begun. It was a larceny case the respondent being Andreas Ramirez, a Mexican, who was accused of having stolen a horse and buggy from the Reynolds stable in Calexico last July. District Attorney Eshleman conducted the case for the prosecution and Ramirez was defended by Attorneys W. E. Cox and V. Rapp of El Centro. The defense was based largely on a technicality it being claimed by the attorneys for Ramirez that he had come into possession of the team lawfully and that whatever unlawful intent he may have had was conceived later; therefore that the respondent had not, strictly speaking, committed the offense of which he stood charged.

The case was given to the jury Thursday night but after deliberating all night and a part of Friday forenoon that body reported inability to agree. It is understood that the jury stood eleven for conviction and one for acquittal. The case is likely to come up again for further trial next week.

A HOLTVILLE BAD MAN

Leander Woods of Holtville was arrested Sunday night by Constable M. P. Harris of that town and Monday morning brought to El Centro and lodged in the county jail, charged with assault. Woods, it is claimed, went to Mexicali Sunday and filled up with liquor, later returning to Holtville in a belligerent frame of mind. He went into the restaurant kept by Mrs. Kate Cannon and demanded instant service. He professed to be dissatisfied and when Mrs. Cannon refused to become frightened drew a gun and threatened her. She called for help and Woods went away. Several men at once began looking for him and Woods was undoubtedly in serious danger. Constable Harris found him first, fortunately, before the avengers had located him.

Woods was arraigned before Justice Webb at 2:30 o'clock Monday morning and at a preliminary hearing at 9 o'clock Monday was bound over to the Superior Court. He is now in the county jail awaiting trial.